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The Weekly Pacific News.

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FOR THE STEAMER OREGON OF FIRST MARCH.

Union of the Democracy for the Sake of California.

To the Democrats of California.

We are rejoiced to see, at last, a gradual change taking place in the complexion of things in our new State. The hurly-burly incident upon the breaking out of the mines—the disorder and rashness of movement consequent upon the first rush of immigration into California—the disarrangement of those healthy modes of society, without which no State can long continue in prosperous existence, are fast subsiding. And California is becoming American, not only in the proverbial rapidity with which its citizens go about accomplishing their ends, but in the high tone, the judgment and certainty of success which accompany their movements. The time has come when they are beginning to feel that they have a country to serve as well as private interests. The affairs of the infant State demand their attention. It is absolutely important and necessary, that the political bias of California at the present time should be in the right direction as it is necessary that the bias of childhood should be correct. Her future glory and prosperity depend upon this bias. Her course is to be watched—her early footsteps are to be guarded. Let the citizens arouse, and see to it that this bias is right.

We are a republic. It is a settled principle that no republic can exist long without its people are emphatically a thinking community. And where the people think, they necessarily range themselves into two parties;—the party of advance and the conservatives. We are not only a republic, but ours is a thinking community. Parties are inevitable—they must come. It is for the people of California to decide what principle shall be dominant in this State. Will they allow the party of advance to take our infant State by the hand and lead it on to prosperity, or are they to allow the chilling influence of conservatism, that principle which says forever—'stand, stand—the present is good?' Are they to allow that principle to numb our State and impede the litheness of its movements? For ourselves we have decided, we take our stand, from this day, upon the broad platform of DEMOCRACY. We call upon the Democrats of California to arouse and consolidate their party.

They have been dormant long enough. The evil effects of this lack of organization are already beginning to manifest themselves. The time is ripe. The peril is imminent. Let us nip these divisions in the bud. Let us collect and arrange our scattering ranks. If we do this and march onward, shoulder to shoulder, we are strong, and the victory is ours. If we allow divisions and petty personal strifes to arise in our midst, we are weakened, and defeat is easy. It becomes our duty, to-morrow, to vote for a State Senator. We call upon every TRUE DEMOCRAT to lay aside his differences, and not to jeopardize the general interests of the State by allowing any mere differences of opinion, on county policy, to influence his vote. If there are divisions in our ranks, it is not because either party are any the less Democratic. Let both divisions, then, see to it that their acts are not such as shall bring about the defeat of those principles for which we have fought often and victoriously.

We have hoisted our flag because we believe that the principles of Democracy are those which will insure the highest degree of prosperity to our State. If this is so, the sooner we come out the better,—the sooner we organize, consolidate, and give force of direction to our party, the better. We call, therefore, upon every true Democrat, throughout the length and breadth of our State, as he loves his country,—as he loves the principles for which he has contended,—as he loves the State of his adoption,—as he loves the party with which he has fought, year after year, campaign after campaign,—to come forward and use his influence to organize a glorious body—a FREE DEMOCRACY—which shall bear his principles on to VICTORY.

San Joaquin City.

A new city in the Southern Valley is already rapidly springing into existence and with the increasing tide of emigration setting towards the golden tributaries of the San Joaquin, bids fair soon to occupy an important position in the history of California's prosperity.

It is but a few weeks since the location of San Joaquin City was selected on beautiful high ground, two miles below the mouth of the Stanislaus, and at the head of navigation on the river; and this short period has sufficed to give it an impetus that its admirable position will permanently secure to it. It is central to the whole southern mining region, and accessible both from this city and the mines at every season of the year.

There are a considerable number of buildings erected, and some half a dozen vessels going up with cargoes, among which are upwards of eighty additional houses for dwellings and stores. Three wagons, we are informed, are teaming constantly thence to the mines, and pack animals and persons from the towns below, and constantly passing, it being on the highway from San Jose, &c., to the different Southern diggings. They have a superior ferry boat, 60 feet in length, with high sides, by which the wildest cattle can be crossed over in safety, at all times. From all we hear of this new city, it is destined to occupy the position in the Southern Valley, that Sacramento City does in the Northern. Our shrewd business men will not be slow to avail themselves of the advantages of the locality as a depot for supplying the mines beyond and around it. The steamer Mint now runs twice a week, and will soon be compelled to make three trips weekly, to accommodate the increasing travel that is setting up the San Joaquin river.

Municipal Lands—Governor's Proclamation.

Under the laws of Mexico, the Alcaldes and Justices of the Peace of towns, under direction of the governor, had power to grant portions of the lands, at a small fee, generally $12, for a fifty or one hundred vara lot. After the occupancy by the American naval and military forces, the Spanish laws continued to be executed, but not with the same regard to details which had always governed the Spanish officials. The discovery of the gold, after the treaty of peace, gave to the public lands of this city a great prospective value, and that appreciation has been since advancing in a most astonishing ratio, yet the fee for grants has not exceeded $200 for lots, while the value, in many cases, had risen by increase of population to thousands.

These grants of Alcaldes, Justices of the Peace and Ayuntamientos, constitute almost exclusively the titles to real estate in San Francisco, and the question of legality will soon come before the courts of the State for decision, unless a commission is issued by Congress to adjust the matter on some satisfactory basis—one that shall, while protecting those in occupancy under grants fairly made, interfere only in those proved to be fraudulent.

In regular succession of office, the latest grants have been made by Dr. J. Q. Coltoe, the legally appointed Justice of the Peace,—but by the action of the Governor, two weeks since, by proclamation, the functions of this officer have been suspended; and by the documents published by us below, *all sales of municipal lands* are prohibited until further orders. We consider this action of the Governor as having a tendency to strengthen the titles to lands under Alcalde and other grants, and holders have already acquired more confidence. The action of Judge Colton in the premises, we consider as having been governed by a conscientious sense of his duty, in the exercise of his legal powers, though he has been singled out for the shafts of enemies, because he would not lend himself to the speculative views of those who cared more for their own aggrandizement than for the interests of the public.

But we do not intend to go into the merits of this question at the present time; but simply state the facts, as we understand them, and give the documents as we find them.

The documents herewith, were presented to the Town Council, by a messenger from the Prefecture, at its regular meeting on Wednesday evening, 20th instant.

PREFECTURE OF SAN FRANCISCO,
February 19, 1850.

To the Hon. Ayuntamiento of the Town of San Francisco. An order of His Excellency, the Governor of the State of California, has been received and placed on file in this Prefecture, of which the accompanying is a true copy, suspending all sales of municipal lands in the city of San Francisco, till the further order of the Executive, or the Legislature shall have passed some act in reference to said lands.

The Honorable Ayuntamiento, Alcaldes, Justices of the Peace, and all others whom it may concern, will govern themselves accordingly.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, &c.

HORACE HAWES,
Prefect of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, it hath been represented to the undersigned, that a large sum of money has been raised by the sale of municipal lands in the city of San Francisco, a sum more than sufficient for all the wants of the city government, and that no further sale of said municipal lands is demanded, either for purposes of revenue or for the settlement and improvements of the city. Now, therefore, I, Peter H Burnett, Governor of the State of California, in the name and by the authority of the people of said State, do order and declare that no further sales of the municipal lands of said city shall be made, until the further order of the Executive, or until the Legislature shall pass some act in reference to said lands.

Given under my hand at San Jose, the fifteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord, eighteen hundred and fifty, and of the Independence of the United States the seventy-fourth.

(Signed) PETER H. BURNETT.

PREFECTURE OF SAN FRANCISCO,
February 20, 1850.

To the Hon. Ayuntamiento of San Francisco. By a communication dated the 31st December, 1849, I had the honor to remind the Ayuntamiento, that on the 1st day of January, 1850, an account was to be rendered of all their receipts and disbursements, on account of the municipal fund, stating specifically, not only the sources from which the said funds had been supplied, but also the objects for which any and all expenditures had been made, accompanied with the proper vouchers.

No account was rendered, but the liability of each one of the individuals who composed the Ayuntamiento at that time, to account for their administration of the municipal funds still continues.

I have now the honor to inform the Honorable Ayuntamiento that on the 1st day of March next, a full and complete account, as required by law, must be tendered by them, of their administration of the municipal funds, in order that the same may be forwarded to the Governor, and published for the information of the people, and that any further delay cannot be allowed.

I am, gentlemen, with sentiments of the highest consideration and respect, your obedient servant,

HORACE HAWES,
Prefect of San Francisco.

Grand Birth-Day Party at the Capital.

SAN JOSE, February 5, 1850.

F. C. EWER, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* The long expected "Birth-day Party" of Gen Green, came off last evening, at the State House. The General, you know, is one of the Senators from Sacramento City, and well known to fame as the author of the history of the Mier Expedition—an exceedingly clever production—and being, withal, quite popular here, with everybody, the Hall of the Assembly was filled at an early hour, by the friends of the General, who came to tender him their congratulations. Below, the Senate chamber, which was temporarily occupied for the evening as a reception room, was brilliantly illuminated and tastefully decorated. The hall was cleared and put in ample order for a dancing saloon, under the supervision of the committee of arrangements, consisting of mess. Vallejo, Bigler, Teffts, Chamberlain and Ogier. Soon after the arrival of the party, and their introduction to the host, the word of command was given by the General—

"On with the dance—let joy be unconfined,
No sleep till morn—when youth and pleasure meet,"

and as cheerfully obeyed by all present who loved

"To trip the light fantastic toe."

Among the invited guests, I observed Gov. Burnett and his daughters, Lieut. Governor McDougal, Mr. Speaker White, Members of the Legislature, and of the Bar, Hon T J Henley, W S Sherwood, Esq., and other distinguished gentlemen, from abroad.

The wealth, beauty and fashion of the Pueblo had its representatives from all classes present, Spanish and American. Conspicuous among the former, was Generals Vallejo and Pico, and Hon. P. De La Guerra, together with a fair proportion of Senoritas. Gayest among the gay, and the cynosure of all eyes, were the new bride, Mrs. Murphy, and her husband, who made their "first appearance" last evening at the party, since their romantic marriage, an account of which has already appeared in your columns. The bride and bridegroom both received the warm congratulations of their friends, at the successful termination of their trials. Quadrilles and cotillion dances, reels and cotillions, gallopades and waltzes, of every variety, were the order of the evening, interspersed, at intervals, with wine and refreshments; and all seemed cheerful and happy.

And happiest among the happy, was the General himself, as you would judge if you had seen him making his *salams* to the ladies from time to time, and everywhere present, contributing by his attention and urbanity, to the comfort and enjoyment of his guests. And so, Mr. Editor, we had a full attendance of all our "nice young men," on the occasion, and you really could not find it in your bachelor heart to blame them when they can have such partners in the lively reel or the swimming waltz, as the queenlike Mrs C, the lively and pretty Miss S, the beautiful Miss C, and the lovely and admirable Mrs M, who has just arrived here from the States, with other ladies too numerous to mention.

All was mirth and hilarity: every body seemed well pleased with himself and all around him.

"Soft eyes looked love to eyes that spake again,
And all went merry as a marriage bell."

The dancing was kept up till a late hour. I had almost forgotten to mention that our friend Kemble of the "Alta," was present and a participant, to a great extent, in the amusements of the evening; and somewhere among the "short" hours—but which of them I will not say—for, like many others last evening, whether the moon had

"Two horns or three—I could no tell,"

the guests retired, praying, that the General might live to enjoy many as happy birth day parties, as the one at the capitol of California, on the evening of the 4th of February, 1850.

SPECTATOR.

The New Custom House.

We had the pleasure of inspecting, yesterday, the new iron building, on the corner of Portsmouth Square and Clay street, the upper story of which is now being fitted for our Custom House. The accommodations will be ample, and our Collector deserves, and will obtain, the thanks of the whole commercial community for the responsibility which he has assumed in determining to remove the Custom House from the building in which it is at present. That building is not only dilapidated and leaky, but it is almost entirely unfit for the purposes to which it is now devoted.

The rooms in the new building which are to be occupied by the Custom House, are spacious, and amply convenient for all the purposes of the Department.—The building is fire proof, and we heartily congratulate the public on the change. We are happy to see that the proper authorities are taking prompt measures towards making the new Custom House easily accessible to the business community of the place, by means of a stone walk-way. We trust that those buildings which now encroach upon the public square will be removed at the earliest practicable moment.

There appears to be ample room, on the first floor of the building, for our Post Office. It would certainly be a matter of great congratulation to our citizens, to see a change made in the postal arrangements of our city.

The Southern Mines, and the Routes from Stockton to Them.

Stockton appears at present to be the depot for many of the Southern Mines. Arriving there by water from San Francisco, the miner can proceed, either by water or by land, to the placers. If he goes by water, he ascends the San Joaquin in a boat of light draught, say, that of an ordinary whale boat, to the Stanislaus, the Tuolumne, or the Mercedes rivers. Each of these streams is navigable for such boats to within twenty-five or thirty miles of the numerous diggings upon them respectively, from the beginning of the rainy season to the last melting of the mountain snows in July. Landing his effects at the highest point attainable with his boat, he can engage a muleteer or teamster to carry them to such point as he may select. As near as we can learn, the cost of these routes is about as follows: From San Francisco by steam, passage $25; freight, 2½ cents per lb. From Stockton to head of boat navigation, passage $10 to $20, but in most cases the passage is worked out, by pulling an oar or assisting in the managing of the boat; freight, from 10 to 15 cents per lb., at present, but as soon as the roads are better, the freight by water will probably be materially reduced. From head of boat navigation to the mines, about 35 cents per lb., varying according to the distance to be travelled.

From Stockton by land, the road traverses the prairie in a line about parallel with the mountains in which the placers are, and at a distance of from twenty to thirty miles from them. The road crosses successively the Stanislaus, the Tuolumne, and the Merced. On reaching the stream chosen for his labors, the miner turns off towards the mountains, usually travelling on the higher land away from the bank of the river, and thus with one conveyance he reaches the diggings he has selected. The usual practice is to walk, though if he choose, the miner may have a mule to ride for about $20. For freight, the price from Stockton is from 25 to 40 cents per lb., according to the distance. These are, as we understand, winter rates; but a few weeks of good weather will probably reduce prices to about 15 cents per lb.

Provisions and clothing are now plenty in the mines, and the miner should be ware how he attempts, under present charges for freight, to take much of any thing with him to the mines. Should he carry his goods and trunks to Stockton, he will find that storage can be had at $1 per month for one barrel. When ever he knows his subsequent movements and necessities, he can send for them, or exercise any desirable control over them.

The Calaveras and Mokelumne are two streams which empty into the San Joaquin, below Stockton. The diggings upon these streams are also much worked, and with about the same success as the others already named. From Stockton, roads branch off to the various mines on these streams, which are distant from forty to seventy miles.

The following is a list of the individual diggings on the several rivers, with their estimated distances, in round numbers, from Stockton.

ON THE MOKELUMNE.

Lower Bar	distance 60 miles.
Middle Bar	65 "
Upper Bar	70 "

ON THE CALAVERAS.

There are three diggings, at the distance of about 35, 40 and 45 miles.

ON THE STANISLAUS RIVER.

There are four encampments of miners, distant from 60 to 70 miles.

ON RAVINES AND TRIBUTARIES OF THE STANISLAUS.

Carson's	70 miles.
Angel's	75 "
Murphy's	80 "
Mormon Diggings	70 "

ON THE TUOLUMNE.

Keith's, or Don Pedro's	60 miles.
Hawkins's Bar	65 "
Jacksonville	70 "
Stevens's Bar	75 "

ON THE RAVINES AND TRIBUTARIES OF THE TUOLUMNE.

Chinese Diggings	70 miles.
Woods's, or Jamestown	70 "
Curtis' creek	75 "
Sullivan's	75 "
Sonoranian camp	75 "
Savage's new diggings	80 "

ON THE MERCEDES AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

There are three or four different diggings from 70 to 80 miles from Stockton. The camps are not, however, distinctly known by name, as the mines were but little worked last year, though they undoubtedly will be the present season.

ON THE MARIPOSA.

There are several diggings, the best known of which are Skerlock's, Fremont's, and the Agua Frio, distant from Stockton about 100 miles.

The above are not all, though they constitute the principal part of what are called the Southern Mines.

YUBA CITY.—This new city, situated on Feather river, opposite the mouth of the Yuba, appears to be taking rapid strides in substantial prosperity. We learn that the schooner Alfred is now loading from the bark Paloma, for Capt Watson, for the above place, taking among other cargo, thirty-five frame houses, one of which is intended as a first class hotel, all of which Capt W. engages to have erected within sixty days. In addition to this, the schooner Empire sailed ten days ago for Yuba City, with 60,000 feet of lumber, and the steamer El Dorado is making regular trips from San Francisco to the same place, loaded down with passengers and freight at every trip. There is already a post office established at Yuba City, to which the mail is carried weekly. From all we can learn, this promises to be the most rapidly growing and best located of any up country town we know of, being a central depot for the extensive mining region watered by the Yuba and Feather river.

Correspondence Pacific News.

HAWKINS' BAR, *Tuolumne River*, }
February 6th, 1850. }

EDITORS OF THE PACIFIC NEWS:

The winter, has, I trust, at length passed, and spring again opened upon us. The roads are becoming good, and the miners are at work in good earnest extracting the dust—"dust" did I say? No, not dust, but *lumps*, from the soil. The diggings have been quite good here this winter—and since the rain has ceased, are better than ever. A short distance below this place, a company of one hundred men are engaged in digging a canal, about half a mile in length, through which they intend to turn the river, and then work in its old bed—they are making the sand fly in "great agony," and will soon be repaid for all their labor: not merely *one ounce, per day*, but at the least calculation *three or four, sure.* A short distance above this place a new bar has been discovered which promises to *surpass anything on record*; there are but few men at work on it as yet, but they are coming in every day, and there is room for hundreds more. You remember I wrote you from the Sacramento, Yuba, Feather rivers, &c., then, I "was down in the mouth," and had great reason to be so, but since my arrival here I have changed my tune entirely, and instead of wishing myself at home, I wish myself just where I am, and here I intend to remain until some time in October, and then my pile will be accumulated, and I shall leave for home to bring on my *wife*, as I think she would be quite useful, in cooking, &c. We are as comfortable here as you please—have enough to drink, eat and wear, and not such *very* hard work to get the rocks either. I think you folks in Stockton and San Francisco must have fine times in the mud, if it is as bad as they say it is. If any of my acquaintances are missing when I come down, I shall commence digging for them, supposing they have sunk. This place is only about sixty miles from Stockton, and a good road all the way. Tents are pitched at short distances from each other the entire length of the road for the accommodation of travellers, where they can get enough to eat and drink, and a good place to sleep. I would advise those who come this way to bring but few provisions, as they can be bought here at a price equal to the packing, and they would have their labor for nothing. There are several companies forming, and, doubtless, the whole bed of this river will be turned before another spring, as the bottom is *literally covered* with the precious stuff, and we are bound to have it out. Those who left last fall for fear of [illegible] and starving to death, after spending the winter in San Francisco up to their necks in mud, are coming back as fast as their legs will bring them to their pleasant homes in the valley of the Tuolumne, fully convinced that this place is not to be sneezed at, but that it is the place for all gold diggers.

Yours, most respectfully, G. R. E.

STOCKTON, February, 1850.

Editor Pacific News—SIR: I have just been conversing with a friend, who returned a day or two since, from an exploring trip through the mines—starting from Stockton to the Mokelumne, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Mercedes, and Mariposa—visiting the greater part of all these diggings in his route.

He represents the miners as in excellent health and spirits, and having passed a pleasant winter in their mountain huts. Provisions had generally been plenty, and not very dear, and the game abundant. Although the weather had been unusually severe, all that chose could make considerable more than the cost of their provisions, and many had struck rich veins of the pure metal. New diggings had been discovered on almost every stream and ravine throughout his entire route, and the miners were only waiting for settled weather to begin work in earnest. Many reports were told him of twenty five to ninety pound specimen lumps, and of some pockets found containing a half peck, or more of genuine oro. Whether true or not, may be a question. However, I happen to know, that two young men took out of one pocket, on the Tuolumne, in as little time as it takes to relate it, two and a half pints of pure gold dust!

Returning from the Mariposa and Mercedes, my friend left his horse at a Ranch on the Tuolumne, and came down by water. His account of the beauty of that river, and of the San Joaquin, ought to be given in his own words. He counted in one day, thirty-seven boats ascending the San Joaquin, some bound for the Stanislaus, some for the Tuolumne, and some for the Mercedes—but all containing more or less hardy emigrants; some of whom were intending to locate on vacant lands bordering these streams, while others were bound for the various mines. There can be but little if any doubt, but that the valley of the San Joaquin and its tributaries will soon be populated. For grazing, these lands are most excellent the entire year, and a very great proportion of them are well adapted for most agricultural purposes. Respectfully, yours,

J. A. M.

STOCKTON, February 17, 1850.

MESSRS EDITORS: Mr David H Hand, a young man from Sag Harbor, Long Island, has arrived to-day from the Chinese diggings, on the Tuolumne, and represents the miners as doing extremely well. One fact he related to me, I think is deserving of notice, which is, that they have a bye-law in that community forbidding gamesters from opening any games of chance in their diggings, under a penalty of all the money offered as a stake or bank, besides forfeiture of tent, fixtures, &c., when opened. A regulation which might be extended to other places with advantage.

Mr H states that rumors are believed of extremely rich diggings having been found high up on the Tuolumne and Stanislaus, and excitement is so great, that small parties are from time to time moving off by *night*, that their trail may not be followed. Accounts from all the mines are very favorable, and the miners generally are in excellent health and spirits. Very respectfully yours,

A. J. M.

The Southern Mines.

Our Readers have no doubt observed the fact that our intelligence from the southern mines has heretofore been comparatively meagre; but this has been entirely owing to the great difficulty of communicating with the interior during the wet season from the almost impassable condition of the roads across the plains. We hope, however, to be able to present hereafter a more satisfactory summary of news from that auriferous portion of our State. What little we have gleaned is highly flattering. The idea heretofore prevalent that successful digging was out of the question during the winter, is found by actual experiment to be erroneous. In fact, it is the only time when many of the richest deposits can be worked with any advantage. Gulches at a distance from water, and beds of creeks dry during the whole summer, are of this class. If the deposites are in small particles, water is absolutely necessary to the separation of the metal; and if there is a mixture of coarse and fine, the difficulty is only lessened, not obviated, as all the smaller particles are lost in the *dry-wash.* As a proof of this, persons at the beginning of the rains worked the dirt thrown away in the dry-washing were able to make from one to three ounces a day. During the prevalence of the rains, sufficient water is always to be had at these places, and the stream is seldom so large that a few hours' labor can not turn it from the natural course, leaving the bed of the run for a theatre of operation.

The largest number of persons congregated in any single section of the Southern mines, is in the Mariposa country. At the close of the dry season, there was a general rush thither from all the tributaries of the San Joaquin, and there is no doubt that large amounts of gold will be mined there during the winter. The whole region of country, extending from the Mercedes to the main Mariposa, exhibits externally better evidences of gold than any other section of the Southern mines. Vast quantities of slate crop out in every direction,—and the surface is literally [illegible] quartz pebbles, and large rocks of the same material seamed with granite.—Where [illegible] was effected during the past summer and fall in sufficient quantities, miners did well, and we confidently wait only for the re-establishment of the usual communication, to be assured that those who have wintered in that section, have been liberally rewarded for their labors.

The Mercedes river was nearly deserted during the months of September and October, although less work has been done on this than any other of the southern streams. This was owing, not so much to the unproductiveness of labor on its bars and banks, as to the belief that better fields of operation were afforded on either side, at short distances—to wit: the Mariposa on the south, and the Tuolumne on the north. December, however, found numbers going there, and up to the middle of the same month, with flattering prospects. Since that time we have had no definite information.

Between the Mercedes and the latter river, new diggings have been found, and those operating in them are doing well, averaging from one to two ounces per day. The place is known as Maxwell's creek, though the diggings are not confined to a single run.

Upon the Tuolumne and its branches large numbers of persons are wintering. Wood's creek and its immediate vicinity still maintains its reputation as a rich spot. Upon the river itself not so much is doing in the way of actually taking out gold, as getting in readiness to do a lucrative business the approaching season. At the commencement of the rains, no less than six separate and distinct companies were at work at as many different points, and all within the distance of eight miles, turning the river. They commenced too late in the season to accomplish their undertakings before the high waters were upon them, and more of them were postponed until the coming summer. Others, and such as required a large expenditure of labor, in the way of ditching and damming, are now in progress, so that by the time the water subsides sufficiently, the canals will be cut, the damming materials on hand, and but few days' labor requisite to afford free access to the treasure now buried beneath the waters. It is proper to state that most, or all, of these ditches and damming operations promise rich repayment; for the banks on either side have already proved rich, and the bed of the stream itself has been tested sufficiently to leave no apprehension of a loss of labor. It is our opinion, that more gold will be taken from the Tuolumne river the coming summer and fall than was done during the past.

From the Stanislaus and Mokolumne, our information is of much the same character as from the points already mentioned. Miners are receiving a fair compensation, and suffering as little from the inclemencies of the season as thousands in San Francisco, Stockton, and Sacramento City.

Washington's Birth-day Ball at the Capital.—Tickets of invitation to this affair were received by us, but the absence of the principal editor, and the arrival of the steamer, prevented us from enjoying the pleasure of being present. Our correspondent will, no doubt, give an account of the "doings" on the occasion.

Real Estate of the City.

By references to the documents in another column, it will be noticed that the Chief Magistrate of the State has interposed his authority to suspend any further disposal of the municipal lands of this city. As we read the law, defining his powers and prescribing his official duty, he is clearly in the right; and the promptness and sagacity shown in this instance of the exercise of his executive authority, thus early in the history of his administration of public affairs, will, we think, tend to confirm the confidence which the people of the State have placed in him.

The reason which he assigns for interdicting grants of lands by Justices of the Peace, are 'that said lands are far more valuable than the price required to be paid by the existing laws—that if said lands were sold to the highest bidder, a much larger amount of municipal funds could be realized for the use of said city, and that the practice of making grants of said municipal lands by Justices of Peace, is likely to produce excessive confusion and useless litigation.'

We concur in these opinions, that the lands in question are worth more than the price fixed by law, and that much more nearly than their true value may be realized by auction sales. But it is not perfectly clear to our minds, that the city would not have been in as good condition, both in regard to the individual prosperity of its citizens, and the extent and availability of its financial resources, had the laws regulating the granting of its lands and the establishment of titles been rigidly executed, since the place came under American jurisdiction; and it is still less clear, that 'extensive confusion and useless litigation' will be less likely to result from the entire disregard of all law in attempts to 'confer titles,' than would have been produced by the practice of making grants by Justices of the Peace, which 'existing laws' have established. The vigor, progress, and wealth of a town or country, is made up of the prosperous circumstances of the individual members of the community, and is the result of the general diffusion of all the stimulants and rewards of active and protective industry.

Had the lands, which have been assumed to have been granted by the competent authorities of Mexico, or of California, to the town of San Francisco, been allotted to persons actually settling and acquiring domicil in the place, and in strict accordance with the terms, spirit and policy of Mexican laws,—the only laws by which legal title can be acquired,—it is easy to believe that the real increase of value, arising from the extraordinary circumstances attending the growth of the Town, would as well have enabled the legal proprietors to meet all demands for public expenses, as that increased value has enabled speculators to pay the price to the city exchequer, offered at the sale of the lots to the highest bidder. Certain it is that had the policy and terms of Mexican law been understood and adopted as the rule of the ayuntamiento in the administration of the municipal properties, one monstrous and almost incurable evil that has come upon the town, would have been avoided; viz: that of the accumulation in the hands of comparatively a few, of the massive wealth of the city, and leaving a vast proportion of its citizens tenants and dependents. We cannot but consider the old Mexican system as more conservative of the general weal, more republican in its character, and more American in its policy, than the system actually adopted and in force.

We confess we have never been able to discover any exigency of the public treasury that required the forcing into market of the public property, as has been done. The several members of the ayuntamiento have not discovered any want of foresight in regard to the prospective advancement in the appreciation of property at this great centre of commercial movement. In the management of their own affairs their sagacity in that regard, as evinced by results, would indicate a remarkable adaptation of capacity to take proper care of the public interests, and it is not difficult now to see, that if they had made the same use of the municipal lands, for the use and benefit of the town, as they have of the same lands since they came, to a great extent, into their own hands, by sale to the highest bidder! they would have secured a revenue to the town treasury of a rent, monthly, very nearly, if not quite equal, to the amount at which they were sold at auction.

We are glad, therefore, to see that His Excellency the Governor has arrested the further alienation of the public lands.

The late hour at which we received the Executive communications, to be found in another column, which were laid before the Town Council last evening, precluded the possibility of enlarging upon the subject. But we shall endeavor in our next to lay before our readers some views we entertain, of the modes in which these municipal properties may hereafter be employed, so as to produce a perpetual revenue to the funds of the city.

By a handbill which we chanced to see yesterday evening, advertising the public sale of 250 town lots and numerous water lots, it would appear that there yet remains of these properties a value sufficient, if properly husbanded, to save the city from very severe direct taxation.

SPECIAL ELECTION.—A special election will be held in the District of San Francisco, on the 2d of March, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of H Watson. The early day named in the Proclamation, renders it incumbent upon the Democratic Committee to move at once, in order that the best man may be nominated.

THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY Graff Collection CHICAGO

SAN FRANCISCO.

Friday, March 1, 1850.

F. C. EWER, EDITOR

☞ This edition of the "Pacific News" for the Steamer, for want of any other kind to be obtained in California, is printed on a very nice quality of *wrapping paper*—which we beg of our readers to imagine to have been chosen on account of the beauty of the tint. It will do to send to "the States" as a curiosity—and also as a mark of that independence of feeling so characteristic of a Californian, and an evidence of the determination of the proprietors not to be particularly put out because of a failure to receive their regular, or rather irregular supply, when they can purchase paper like this at only *half an ounce* per ream.

Affairs in California.

Since our last issue for the steamer, things have been going on in our new State with the same degree of energy and rapidity which has distinguished California since the day when it became a part of the United States. The influx of population still continues. Wealth still transpires from our hills. San Francisco grows with the same rapidity. And towns are springing up all over the land. It has become really a matter of some difficulty to keep the run of all the new settlements that dot the valleys of San Joaquin and Sacramento. Our friends in the States have heard of Benicia, of New York of the Pacific, of Sacramento and of Stockton. What would they say if they knew of the rapidity with which lots are sold and houses erected at Vernon, and Fremont, at the junction of the Feather with the Sacramento—at El Dorado, higher up on the left bank of the Feather—at Plumas, between El Dorado and that celebrated rancho, called Hock Farm, which is the present residence of the renowned Capt Sutter—at Nicholaus, upon the right bank of the same stream still higher up—at Yuba City, on the left bank of the Feather, opposite the mouth of the Yuba—at Marysville, on the Yuba, at its junction with the Feather. Then again there are the two towns on Bear Creek, which flows parallel with the Yuba, emptying into the Feather, viz., Oro, and Kearny. The settlements upon the American river and its forks are not to be forgotten; Coloma, Hangtown, Weaverville, Auburn, Mormon Island, &c. And then what shall we say of the host of towns in the San Joaquin valley.

Another indication of the rapidity and energy of movement which marks as a distinguishing characteristic California, in the number of steamboats now plying daily upon our magnificent rivers. The Sacramento and the Fire Fly ply between Alviso and San Francisco. Several ply up the San Joaquin. The Senator, the El Dorado, the McKim and the Hartford run between this city and Sacramento. The El Dorado also runs up as high as Yuba City. She is not sufficient to transport from Sacramento and San Francisco the loads of merchandise that are daily waiting at these two places, but is assisted by the Lawrence, the Linda and the Phœnix, that ply between Sacramento and Marysville.

Shortly after the departure of the last steamer for the States the two parties, Democratic and Whig, arose and took prompt and active measures towards a complete organization. The movement was started by primary steps taken in San Francisco by the Democratic party towards effecting an organization. But as there was a division in the ranks, in this city, brought about by certain local questions, but little could be effected here. Meantime those Democrats who were assembled at San Jose, from all parts of the State, met together at the capitol and appointed a Committee to draft and report a set of resolutions, and a plan of general organization for the party. The Hon. Thomas J. Henly was the Chairman of the committee. This committee reported their plan and resolutions on the 11th instant. We hope to have it in our power to lay before our readers on the Atlantic side, in our next Steamer issue, both the plan and the resolutions, as well as the address of the committee to the Democracy of California.

A City Charter has been drafted and was to be presented by the Ayuntamiento, or Town Council, to the inhabitants of San Francisco for their approval or disapproval. Owing to certain important points, however, in which the Charter was found wanting, as these points were promptly exposed by the public press, and in other ways, it was deemed expedient to suppress the whole thing, for the present. Meanwhile, our city, instead of being governed by a Common Council and Mayor, rejoices in an Ayuntamiento, an Alcalde and a Prefect. Measures are being taken at San Jose, towards procuring a Charter for Sacramento, Los Angeles, and several other of our numerous towns. The State has also been divided into counties and districts, and the shire towns have been selected. In short, the whole machinery of our State is fast being put into entire working order.

A petition has been presented to our State Legislature, praying that general corporation laws may be passed as speedily as possible, in order that a company may be formed to start a Railroad between Sacramento City and Coloma. This great enterprize is not only calculated to be of immense advantage to the two great interests of our State, the mercantile and the mining, but it must tend to increase beyond conception the size of the two places which it will connect together. The road probably would not stop at Coloma, but several branches would extend from that place both into the Northern and Southern Mines. Thus the wealth of the gold region could not fail to pass through Coloma and Sacramento. The termini of all the branches would also be centres of considerable importance.

With the exception of a slight disturbance among a portion of the population of Hangtown, a flourishing settlement situated near Weaverville on Weaver's creek, every thing is quiet among the miners. The news is very encouraging, from all the Placers. Gold dust is fast flowing into Marysville, Yuba City, and other cities near the mines, and money there is much easier at present than it is in San Francisco. One thing appears to be pretty well settled, that the Placers are richer after an overflow than before, as the floods bring down gold from above, sometimes even depositing a considerable quantity in the holes which had been dug out and left by miners.

The members of the bar of San Francisco have held several meetings relative to the adoption, by the Legislature, of the Common Law of England, for the regulation and government of the courts in this State and the practice therein. After a considerable debate as to the best course to be pursued, the meeting adopted the following resolution, which was offered by Mr. Halsted:

Resolved, That the Legislature be recommended to adopt the simplest forms of practice and pleadings compatible with the common law system.

A notice of the important step taken by the new State of Deseret in relation to California, will be found in another article below, which gives a summary of the proceedings of our Legislature during the past month.

Mines and Mining

We do not wish, nor do we intend, to lend ourselves to the encouragement of the excitement existing in the U States, in relation to California and her mineral resources; but at all times to give such authenticated facts as come to us from the different Placers. From a large number of miners with whom we have recently conversed, direct from the various "diggings," we are well satisfied that, generally, a profitable business has been done by those who wintered in the mines, and that there is no diminution in the yield of dust. If some places are apparently worked out, others of equal richness are being discovered almost daily, so that it becomes more evident than the business of mining is as yet only in its infancy in this country.

There will be a vast amount of mining done the coming season with quicksilver, as so many of the rivers the particles of gold are extremely fine. The Virginia, or "Burke Rocker," is going extensively into use, either by purchase, or manufacture here—the price being about $250 each. By the use of steam or water power, a gang of five or six rockers may be put in motion, and fed with water, reducing the number of hands necessary to supply them with dirt, at least one-half, and more than doubling the quantity that can be daily washed. In 'banks' that contain no more than *fifteen* cents to the bucket or panfull, the quicksilver rockers thus worked produce from ten to twenty dollars per day each. Dirt that pays less than twenty-five cents to a pan full is rarely considered profitable to wash with a common rocker.

A friend of ours, a resident of this city, recently paid a visit to the Georgetown diggings, situated some ten, or twelve miles from Sutter's Mill, (the point of the first discovery of gold,) between the South and Middle Forks of the American River. The snow at that time was several feet deep on the hills, and comparatively few were then at work. Those who were operating had first to remove the snow, then the top dirt and stones, frequently to the depth of several feet, before coming to the strata of earth on the bed rock in which gold is always found most abundant. At Georgetown, the richest ravine in the Northern mines, is located. It is an immense gulf, running through volcanic hills, and about a mile and a half in length, known by the name of "Oregon canon." Only a portion of half to three quarters of a mile, has been found very rich; but in this portion, those who occupy the ground have for months been literally shovelling out the gold in coarse grains, and pieces varying from a dollar to several pounds. Our friend spent a day or two in the camp, on one of which he saw four men take out *eight pounds*, working but four hours; another party of four, a pound each. This was of daily occurrence, in that locality, and the miners were averaging more than half a pound per day each man who worked. But it was only in this particular canon that such results were obtained. Elsewhere in the neighborhood one or two ounces was considered a fair day's work. It is known that several hundred thousand dollars have been taken out of "Oregon canon" alone since the first of October last.

At Mormon Island, where the ground was dug over last summer "from Dan to Beersheba," till hardly half an ounce per day could be realized, the recent great freshets have so changed the "deposites," that miners have since been able to do better, in the very same localities, than at any time last summer—often obtaining two or three ounces per day. This seems to have been the effect of the floods on all the rivers, to a greater or lesser extent.

People who come to California to make money by mining, should be prepared for the hardships of a mountain life, and not only possess good constitutions, but avoid the dissipations which are *too frequently* the cause of a greater portion of the sickness that has given the mining sections of the country their reputation for unhealthiness. We can do without that class of good-for-nothing, thriftless fellows, who *want work* at home, but who think if they can only get to California their fortune is sure to be made in a few months. Men of nerve and industry will here, as every where else, be successful, and as to health, no one with a good constitution and using common prudence need fear sickness in this country more than in the States. We deem California, in *every respect*, as healthy as any equal extent of territory on the face of the globe.

There are now about 120,000 inhabitants in California, mostly male adults; it can well sustain a population of millions; and even in the mineral regions several hundred thousand men could not occupy the whole ground.

Those people in the States who are anxiously looking for the "bursting of the California bubble," as they are pleased to call the extraordinary (to them) condition of things here, consequent upon an entire and radical change in the standard of value, will be doomed to much disappointment. But a single failure has ever been known to have occurred in San Francisco, which in a business population of thousands, and transactions of hundreds of millions, cannot well be paralleled elsewhere. It will be found that the onward progress of California, in wealth and greatness, will astonish these "unbelievers" more in the next five years than all that has gone before has done. Our career is just opening.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

In the legislation necessary for getting in motion the machinery of the government for a new State, the details must usually be dry and uninteresting to others than its own citizens. For this reason, we have given but a brief notice of legislative affairs in our steamer edition, believing the people in the United States would prefer to hear of our progress in general wealth and population. We deem it of interest, therefore, to mention a few of the more important matters, only, that have occupied the attention of the Legislators, since the last steamer sailed.

February 2, the Governor sent to both houses, a message in relation to a proposition from the State of Deseret, asking this State to call a new convention, to be composed of delegates from *all* California, on both sides of the mountains, with a view of framing, for the present, *one State*, to cover the whole territory acquired from Mexico, and at the same time agreeing upon certain boundary lines, which shall ultimately separate California from Deseret. The message (which, with the accompanying papers, was promptly, but most respectfully, laid on the table,) is an able State paper, and the Governor therein gives his reasons why the legislature should reject the proposition *in toto*.

An act has been passed creating a temporary State loan, and bonds issued, redeemable after one year. It is believed the issue will not exceed $150,000 to meet present wants, in anticipation of the collection of taxes, for which a bill has been nearly matured.

The acts dividing the State into Counties, and fixing the time for the first County elections, have become laws, and our county organizations will soon be in full operation, superseding the Spanish laws by which we have been governed since the acquisition of the territory.

A Bill to incorporate Sacramento City, and also one to incorporate the city of Los Angeles, were vetoed by the Governor, on the ground of unconstitutionality, the Constitution providing that each incorporations shall be by General Law.

A large mass of business is before the Legislature in all their various stages, intended to perfect the organization of every department of the State Government, under the Constitution. It is believed, that the labors of the session will not be concluded earlier than the middle of April, if so soon.

THE PRICES CURRENT, which appears in our columns, may be relied upon, in every particular, for its correctness—having been prepared by gentlemen thoroughly competent for the task. Messrs. Losee & Gallaer are deserving the thanks of the business community for the patient labor necessary to get up a full list of articles in the market, in a form so convenient for transmission abroad—and we cannot doubt they are liberally compensated by the patronage of the mercantile community. We are indebted to these gentlemen for the privilege of publishing their Letter Sheet Price Current in our steamer papers, which enables us to give our readers in the States a bird's-eye view of prices here.

Veto on the Governor—Sale of Town Lots—The Town Treasury Bankrupt.

The Ayuntamiento, or Town Council, held an extra session last evening, at which several important matters were discussed, and *definitely* settled so far as that body had power in the premises. It is clear that an issue has been made with the higher authorities as to jurisdiction over the public lands of the city, which promises to attract much attention on the part of the people.

It appears that the Attorney of the Council, to whom had been referred the mandate of Gov. Burnett, gave an opinion adverse to the powers of that functionary to interfere with the action of the Ayuntamiento, which report was accepted and its conclusions adopted. By several votes bearing upon the question, (we left before final action was taken,) it appeared to be determined that the sale of lots, advertised to be made at auction, on the 4th of March, *should take place, notwithstanding the order of the Governor to the contrary*. It was even proposed by the minority of the Committee on Finance, to include in said sale all lots which had been surveyed, and not otherwise legally disposed of! A pretty wide latitude of action truly, and equivalent to passing upon the whole question of the legality of Alcalde and Justices' grants—and saving the courts and lawyers much intricate business that might possibly have come before them.

A communication was received from the Prefect, the tenor of which we did not hear, but which we understood to make a last "loud call" upon the Council to comply speedily with the previous requisitions upon them for a statement of the municipal stewardship entrusted to them by the laws.

By the report of Mr. Brannan, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the statements made by members in debate, it appears that not only is there not a dollar in the Town Treasury, but there is due to public creditors, many of them laboring men upon the streets and wharves, a sum exceeding thirty thousand dollars. This disclosure will certainly be a startling one to the public, and the causes which have led to it should be promptly forthcoming. Mr B's report urged retrenchment in every department of the public expenditure, and he spoke earnestly in support of his position. The minority report advocated the sale of lots as the best panacea for a collapsed Treasury—and the question to lay the majority report of the Finance Committee on the table being decided in the affirmative, Mr. Brannan announced his determination to resign his seat in the Council before the close of the evening's session.

No report from either the Treasurer or Auditor of the city had been made to the Council, of the receipts and disbursements, and the remarks of members had a tendency to leave on the minds of 'outsiders' rather unpleasant inferences, in view of this fact, doubtless not intended to reflect injuriously upon those officers.

We have not time, owing to the lateness of the hour, to give an abstract of the other proceedings of the Council, but we certainly are constrained to say, that such a head-over-heels way of transacting public business as was exhibited last evening, we never before witnessed in a deliberative body. We can conceive of many greater calamities than would be a change in the composition of the Ayuntamiento of San Francisco.

TRACT SOCIETY MEETING.—The meeting on last Sunday evening, at the Baptist chapel, for the formation of the 'Pacific Tract Society,' auxiliary to the American Tract Society, was entirely successful. The house was crowded. Col. James Collier was called to preside, and Thomas J. Nevins appointed secretary. A constitution was presented and adopted, and officers chosen in accordance with its provisions. Rev. Mr Wheeler of this city was chosen President, and T. J. Nevins, corresponding secretary. Several vice-presidents were appointed as well as a board of directors, executive committee, etc. During the evening letters were read from gentlemen of the neighboring towns, expressing a lively interest in the success of the undertaking. Resolutions were also presented, and stirring addresses made, in behalf of the important objects sought to be accomplished.

Praiseworthy.—We learn from the Sacramento correspondent of the *Alta*, that the Masonic and Odd Fellowship fraternities, are taking active measures in concert to raise funds for the relief of the destitute among their membership, and to support of a hospital at Sutter's Fort established by them. We notice with pleasure that Stephen C Massett, of the late firm of Massett & Brewster, auctioneers, a gentleman of eminent ability, has tendered his services to give a series of Concerts in aid of the fund, which will doubtless meet the success which so worthy an object deserves.

☞ We perceive that the citizens of San Francisco have been mindful enough of "Home, sweet home," to give Mr. W H. Delrees patronage enough to enable him to retire from his Daguerrean gallery. He leaves it in the hands of Mr. Pierpoint, who is a skilful artist, and is capable of giving the public entire satisfaction.

The Sandwich Island princes have arrived in England, and the Hawaiian ambassador has reached France.

Homeward Bound.

With our package of letters from "home, sweet home," we also received one from a friend who left on the Panama on the 1st instant, on a business visit to New York. Though not intended for publication, we have determined to take the responsibility of making an extract or two, which we doubt not will be gratifying to the readers of the *News*. The letter is dated "On board steamship Panama, Gulf of California, Feb. 7."

" * * * As you are no doubt aware, we got to sea just about dark on the 1st, and having made all baggage fast in most approved style. I prepared myself for 'a good time' of sea sickness. The steamer tumbled about in a delightful manner, and at last I began to entertain 'hopes.' But 'twant no use; the only effect produced was that delicate appetite with which I was so afflicted off Cape Horn. No sea-sickness, however strongly invoked, would come to my aid, and I was compelled, after smoking several segars with the hopes of exciting nausea, to retire comfortless to bed, and 'sleep as sound as a roach.' It was a sad disappointment in not being sea-sick but I managed to console myself with the reflection that Cape Horn has so case-hardened my 'innards,' that I can with some degree of propriety aspire to the title of 'old salt.' * * *

"We reached Monterey on the morning of the 2d instant, about nine o'clock. I must confess that I was somewhat disappointed in the appearance of the city. Although it lies folded in the arms of a beautiful little bay and is surrounded by a region of country finely timbered nearly down to the water's edge, with a back ground of highlands much resembling the romantic scenery of the Hudson, yet I did not perceive any of those evidences of energetic industry ever attendant upon the 'improvements' of Yankee enterprise. I should think that the number of buildings did not exceed two hundred, erected in a plain, substantial manner—nearly all, I am told, within the last six months. From what I could judge of the country from the steamer's decks—for I did not land, as she remained only half an hour—I should judge it to be an excellent grazing country, but comparatively worthless for agricultural purposes.

"Leaving Monterey, we drove along two days through a region of fog, and arrived at San Diego at ten o'clock, A. M., on the 4th. The entrance to the harbor is around a neck of land that stretches away out into the ocean—but which, when passed, introduces you through a narrow strait of bold water formed by a bar of sand and rocks on either shore, and extending like a pair of arms in protection of the inner harbor—leaving a channel scarcely a quarter of a mile in width for vessels to pass. Inside these 'bars' the bay flows out like a huge basin, on the left, immediately before you, being seen the new town, composed of only eight coarse looking buildings, while on the right, some miles further up the bay, flashes the spires of the old town of San Diego, in guardianship of the Spanish-looking villas that extend some distance along the shore.

"Yesterday we passed the Marguerita Islands, the principal characteristic of which is their cone shaped mountains piercing the sky, and evidently of volcanic origin. One of them is a tolerably well defined outline of a female form in a horizontal position, as seen from a distance. The profile was sunk below the horizon, but the bust, surmounted by the two immense mountain cones, gave an excellent representation of the 'line of beauty' in the swelling and graceful outline. * * * In the afternoon we passed Point Todos Santos, and this morning Cape St. Lucas—both of which were seen at too great a distance to take observations.

"Every thing has gone well with us since we left the golden shores—our tables are good, the Captain gentlemanly and courteous, and we indulge in the pleasing expectation of a pleasant and speedy passage to the U. S."

☞ We are under obligations to J. W Sullivan, Esq., 28 Park Row, New York, for a file of the *Herald* for December. Also to Capt. Macey, purser of the Oregon, for the aid afforded our collector in the early obtainment of papers. Also, to Gregory's Express, 69 Pearl street, N York, for files of papers, the head of the firm having come passenger in the Oregon.

We tender our thanks to Messrs. Campbell & Hoogs for late papers. Also to W. B. Cooke & Co., Portsmouth Square, for files. At Cooke's bookstore may be found all the late papers from the various cities of the Union received by the Oregon.

Messrs. Berford & Co. have sent us files of the New York Sunday Atlas, for which excellent publication they are the California agents.

☞ We are happy to be able to announce that MR. STEPHEN J. MASSETT, late of the firm of Massett & Brewster, Sacramento City, has removed to this city, where he intends to re-establish himself in the Auction and Commission business. We have been acquainted with Mr M. for many years, and can truly aver, that he is a gentleman, "whom to know is to esteem," and whose social qualities have made him friends every where. As an Auctioneer, he is decidedly popular, and somewhat of a humorist. If one don't buy, he must laugh; generally *both*.

The Pacific Mails.

It has often been a matter of perplexity to our citizens, and we are receiving frequent inquiries why it is that letters, which as our correspondents say, must have arrived, many mails back, are not delivered promptly at our Post Office. Many too, have received intelligence of communications which have been written, but which have never come to hand.

It is well known to many of our readers that, owing to the looseness of our postal arrangements on the Isthmus, the mail bags have been frequently opened, and letters taken out.—We are informed by our Postmaster that he received by the last steamer a package of letters which had been collected by our Postmaster on the Isthmus and forwarded here. Some of these letters should have arrived here last November. This fact is significant, and will undoubtedly explain many of the irregularities spoken of above. We are happy to learn that this evil will now be remedied.

As we stated some time ago, an agent has been appointed to see that the mails are transmitted safely and promptly across the Isthmus. The post office agents at Panama and Chagres will also put an end to the serious evil of opening the bags while on their way.

Col. Allen, the Special Agent of the Department, who is now in Washington, will endeavor to secure such provisions by Congress as will give the post office in this city suitable accommodations, and enable the Postmaster to employ clerks sufficient to do the labor of the office.

Some idea may be formed of the amount of the business at our post office from the following facts: During thirty-two days, from January 1st to February 1st, there were mailed and sent from the post office of this city, to the States, sixty-seven thousand letters, and five thousand newspapers. During the same period, mails from the States were brought in by the Panama, containing twenty thousand letters for delivery and distribution here. Most truly the Californians are a letter-writing and letter-reading people and the Postmaster and his clerks must have their hands full.

The correspondence with the cities and towns in the interior is on the increase, as mail facilities are rendered more regular. The Post Master informs us that of the mails last received from the States, nearly one half were selected and forwarded immediately after to Stockton, Sacramento, Benicia, &c.

At the request of the Post Master we would state for the information of the public, that letters directed to foreign countries and not pre-paid to New York, cannot be forwarded from the office here. The postage on all such must be prepaid, as also on all transient newspapers sent to the States. Another suggestion we would make respecting the sealing of letters. Wafers instead of wax should be used in all cases; as in crossing the Isthmus and Gulf, the wax melts, and the letters are frequently mutilated in separating them for delivery.

Contemplated Resignation of Judge Almond—Recommendation of his Successor.

We are gratified in being made the medium of laying before the public the proceedings of a meeting of the legal gentlemen of San Francisco, which contain resolutions so complimentary to Judge Almond, and which his firm and upright character as a judicial officer and gentleman, renders him so eminently worthy to receive. It is with regret that we are apprised of the enfeebled condition of health which compels the Judge to resign his office, and decline a higher appointment from the Legislature.

At a meeting of the Members of the Bar of San Francisco, held pursuant to public notice, at the Court Room, February 22, 1850, Geo P. A. Morse was called to the Chair, and John Satterlee appointed Secretary.

Hall McAllister, Esq., presented a letter from Judge Almond, of which the following is a copy:

COURT ROOM,
San Francisco, Feb 20, 1850.

Gentlemen: Last week I addressed a letter to Governor Burnett asking leave to resign the office of Judge of First Instance in Civil Cases, for this District, in consequence of the rapidly declining state of my health, under the arduous and unceasing labors and responsibilities of the office, and requesting my friends not to present my name to the Legislature for the office of District Judge of this District, for the reason that I could not accept of said office if tendered to me, on account of the declining condition of my health aforesaid. Yesterday, I received an answer from the Governor stating that he cannot consent to accept my resignation till the Legislature shall elect my successor in the person of a District Judge for this District.

I, therefore, communicate the above facts to that Bar who have so generously and unanimously recommended me to the Legislature for the office of District Judge, and who have so generously sustained me in the discharge of the duties of my office, so that they may recommend some other person to fill said office of District Judge.

I am, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. B. ALMOND,
Judge of First Instance.

To the members of the Bar of San Francisco.

Mr Dwinells moved that the letter of Judge Almond be referred to a committee of five, to report resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the members of the Bar, upon the anticipated parting with Judge Almond. Adopted.

Messrs. Dwinells, McAllister, Billings, Morrison and Townsend, were appointed the committee.

The committee reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously concurred in:

Resolved, That in parting with Judge Wm B. Almond, Judge of First Instance of this District, we cannot hesitate to bear witness to the laborious industry and zeal with which he has devoted himself to the business of the Court, and to the administration of justice, an industry and zeal to which his declining health and shattered constitution bear painful testimony.

Resolved, That in parting with him, the Bar and community of San Francisco sustain a serious loss—the loss of a man who in the discharge of the duties of his office, has manifested an integrity, a firmness, and an ability rarely to be met with.

Resolved, That Judge Almond, whether he remains with us or returns to his family, will bear with him our cordial wishes for his prosperity, for his speedy restoration to health, and for his happiness here and hereafter.

On motion of Mr. McAllister,

Resolved, That the Chairman and Secretary, transmit to Judge Almond a copy of the foregoing resolutions.

On motion of Mr McAllister, the meeting then proceeded to select, by ballot, a suitable person to be recommended to the Legislature for the office of District Judge for the District of San Francisco. Alexander Campbell, Esq., having received a large majority of the votes, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the Members of the Bar of San Francisco recommend to the Legislature, Alexander Campbell, Esq., for the office of District Judge.

P. A. MORSE, Chairman.
JOHN SATTERLEE, Secretary.

Anniversary Celebration of Washington's Birth-day by the First California Guard.

The most *recherche* and magnificent *fete* of the season, was given on Friday evening last, the 22d inst., in honor of the Birth-day of the great and good Washington,—the beloved "Father of his Country,"—by the First California Guard, at their Armory, corner of Dupont and Jackson streets. The Armory, which is one of the largest rooms in the city, was tastefully decorated, and handsomely lighted up, and we noticed the company present was composed of the *elite* of California, in wealth and standing, and several of the officers of the Navy and Army—forming altogether a festive gathering, such as we have never seen surpassed in any of the older States.

The "Guard" has been organized but a few months: but it is formed of our most enterprising and patriotic fellow-citizens, as is evinced by their having erected the building in which their armory is located, at an expense exceeding $30,000, which is owned entirely by themselves; and by giving a Festival conceived and executed on a scale of liberality and splendor that will long remain green in the memories of those who had the good fortune to be present.

The covers were laid for nine o'clock, at which time, the guests being all assembled, the Chair was taken by Myron C. Norton, Esq., as President, assisted by Lieutenants Hall McAllister and David T Bagley, as Vice Presidents.

The "Guards" and their guests, then sat down to an elegant supper, enlivened by music, from the "California Brass Band," under Capt. Miller, and by toast, speech and sentiment—the festivities not terminating till the "wee sma' hours" of the morning. For the curiosity of our readers, we give the Bill of Fare, which was served up by the caterer, Edward Weber, Esq., in the first style of les art cuisine.

FIRST CALIFORNIA GUARD FESTIVAL.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTH-DAY,
22d February, 1850.

BILL OF FARE.

Hures de sanglier.
Cochons de lait farcis.
Gigots a la Perigort.
Gigot a la Kati. Fricandeau.
Cotelettes de Veau en Lorguette.
Jambon glace.
Filet de Chevreuil piqué.
Gigot de Chevreuil Roti.
Culottes de Bœuf.
Canards en Chausson.
Becassines Roties.
Galantine d'Oie.
Pâté froid en croute.
Pate de belle vue.
Mayonnaise de Volaille.
Salade Pomme de Terres aux Œufs.
Salade verte garnie.
Vol-au-vent d'huitre. Poisson.
Saladier de creme au chocolat.
Saladier de creme a la Vanille Rose.
Blanc Mange Renversee. [Vergeo.
Charlottes Russes.
Trois grand Pieces Montee.
Un grand et fin assortiment de
Dessert et de Delicatesses.

After the removal of the cloth, the following Regular Toasts were drank,—that to "the Press" calling up our talented and eloquent confrere of the "Alta," J. E Durivage, Esq., in a neat and modest speech. Col. Hooker, of the Army, and Lieutenant Beer, of the Navy, also made handsome responses—the latter speaking of the pleasure it gave him to recognise so many of the "New York City" and "Brady Guards" present, and concluding with a toast, "To the Ladies of California," who had exhibited their heroism in suffering the long and dangerous passage around Cape Horn, encountering the fevers of the Isthmus, and boldly facing the red men of the prairies. We regret the want of room to give full particulars of the evening's enjoyment:

1. *The Day we Celebrate.*—Sacred to the heart of every American. [Cheers.
2. *The Memory of Washington.* [Drank in silence, standing.
3. *The President of the United States.* [Cheers.
4. *Our Army and Navy.*—The records of their gallant deeds forms one of the most brilliant pages of history. [Cheers.
5. *The Volunteer Corps of our Sister States.*—We greet them in the true soldierly spirit, and ask room in their ranks for the First California Guard. [Cheers.
6. *The Press.*—May it ever be a "Journal" of "Pacific News" from "Alta California."
7. *West Point Military Academy.*—A creation of the immortal Washington. Its brilliant career has been not unworthy its illustrious origin. [Cheers.
8. *The Battle of Buena Vista*—22d of February, 1847.—A glorious celebration of the anniversary. [Cheers.
9. *Woman.*—Our arms are always at her disposal. [Cheers.

The regular toasts having been drank, volunteers were called for, and many

excellent sentiments given, a few of which only are we able to find room for.

By Benj Reynolds, Esq.—*The Golden Planet of the World—California*: May her secret treasures be handled by all mankind, and her virtue still remain untarnished.

By Col James Collier, Collector of the Port—*The Port of San Francisco*. Unrivalled in its beauty of scenery—unsurpassed in its facility for commerce—unexcelled for the liberality of its merchants.

By W. W. Leland, Esq.—*The New Star of the California Guard*: May it be first in a glorious constellation, and may it never set.

The following communications were read by the President, from distinguished citizens, who were unable to be present at the Festival:—

BENICIA, February 18, 1850.

Messrs Fred. A. Woodworth, A. J. McDuffie, Walter Chapman, Alex. S. Abel and Aaron Pollard, Committee of the "First California Guard," San Francisco.

GENTLEMEN. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to the Armory of the "First California Guard," on the evening of Washington's Birth day.

I cannot be in San Francisco on that day, and regret that I must therefore decline the invitation.

I feel a warm interest in all associations for so honorable and patriotic a purpose as yours, and beg to assure you that I shall be ready on all occasions to [illegible]

With earnest wishes for the success and prosperity of your corps and its members, I remain your obedient serv't.,

PERSIFOR F. SMITH,
Bt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A.

San Jose, Feb. 15, 1850.

Gentlemen of the Committee: Your polite note of invitation was received by me in due time; and I regret to say that I cannot do myself the pleasure of meeting with you on the Birth-day of our great Washington. That good man lived in extraordinary times—so do we. If we should only adorn our characters with the virtues that he exhibited, we shall be most happy.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
PETER H. BURNETT.

To Messrs. F. A. Woodworth, A. J. McDuffie, and others, Committee.

Capt Folsom presents his compliments to the Committee, and regrets that ill health will make it imprudent to accept their polite invitation for this evening.

San Francisco, 22d Feb 1850.

FEBRUARY 22, 1850.

MY DEAR SIR: I regret that illness prevents my attending the meeting of the Guards this evening, but beg to offer the following sentiment:

The California Guards: May the spirit of Washington be with them in the hour of need and animate them on to glory.

Yours, most truly,
H. U. M. HOWARD.

To Lt. Myron C. Norton.

To F. A. Woodworth, Esq., and others of the Committee:

GENTLEMEN: I sincerely regret that I shall be unable to meet you at your party. Yours, &c.,

S. A. PARKER.

The evening passed off to the entire satisfaction of all present, and the praises of the "First California Guard" were on every heart and on every tongue.—While our volunteer corps are composed of such men as these, our great and glorious confederacy can never be in danger from traitors within or foes without.

Disturbances in the Northern Mines.

Under the above heading we published, on the 5th inst., a letter from Hangtown, in which severe charges were made against a Mr. Mason, as the instigator of attacks upon some young men, and a defier of the laws, &c. We have since been called upon by Mr. Mason, (on his way to the States) whose version of the affair differs essentially from that of our correspondent. We give his account in his own words, the correctness of which is endorsed by responsible gentlemen of Hangtown:

HANGTOWN, Feb. 10th, 1850.

MR. EDITOR:—In your paper under date Feb. 5th, I notice a communication over the signature of "*Miner*," hailing from this place, in which are embodied severe strictures on the character of myself and the citizens of this place generally, which I deem it a duty I owe not only to myself, here, but my family and friends in the States, to set right through the same medium it was circulated, and in doing so, I ask not to shield myself behind an anonymous name, and assassin-like plunge the dagger to the bosom of a friend, but under my own sign manual to give to the world a plain and candid statement of facts. I much regret the course you have felt it your duty to pursue in the comments heading the article, and more particularly the uncalled for association of "*hounds*," with which I am not connected. You doubtless have been misled by the writer, and will take pleasure in doing not only myself, but a large majority of the citizens of this place, due justice. The writer says: "Five or six men, instigated by one Mason, attacked three young men, who were mining. Pistols, shovels and rocks were used by Mason and associates, and one of the young men seriously injured." The facts are simply these. I had been engaged in mining at the same place, in *the same hole*, for over three months, when, on the day of the difficulty, after being absent some hours, on my return I found to my utter surprise, that my tools had been removed, and some other men engaged in my place. I requested them to leave, which they refused to do, and became quite boisterous. Harsh words passed on both sides; when they retired a short distance, and after holding a council of war, returned for the avowed purpose of whipping me. They were three in number and I alone. They commenced an attack with stones, which I resisted; when, fortunately, a couple of my friends who were passing, came to my assistance. It was then that stones, spades, &c., were used, and the attacking party repelled, and my rights as a miner secured. Pistols were not used by either party. That statement is either false from ignorance or malice. A "Miner" farther states—"Mason was arrested and tried by a jury, before the Alcalde, and a heavy fine was his sentence." It is true I was arrested and called to trial before an Alcalde who himself publicly has been forced to acknowledge he had no commission, or legal authority as such, and I was called before a jury *packed* for the purpose, and denied the right of challenge—one of the dearest rights of freemen—and I by them fined heavily. This fine I utterly refused to pay and still refuse. I offered to leave it to the miners and traders of Hangtown, and if after a full hearing of the case, they said pay, I would do so. The Alcalde and sheriff, for this and similar acts of gross injustice, have been peaceably removed by a large majority of the citizens of the place, and their offices filled by better men. The writer goes on to say—"meetings have been held, but the law and order party, coming in contact with these lawless desperadoes, fights and riots take place." This statement is grossly false, and basely malicious. I undertake to say there never has been a solitary fight, or anything like a riot, or even harsh feeling at any or all of the meetings. All parties came forward with a feeling of quiet acquiescence with the fairly expressed opinions of the majority. A more quiet, peaceable and orderly community I have never seen in any Western State.

I remain yours, respectfully,
F. M. MASON.

Our State Constitution.

The admirable instrument of fundamental law framed by the Convention at Monterey, and afterwards adopted by an almost unanimous vote of the people, is spoken of in terms of admiration by the leading presses of both political parties in the States. We give below extracts from two of the New York papers—the *Evening Post*, and *Express*—which may be taken as the general sentiments of both Democrats and Whigs:

From the New York Evening Post.

In looking over this work of the adventurers whom the desire of improving their fortunes has drawn in such crowds to California, we can hardly help comparing it with the last of the previous republican constitutions framed for the government of any part of the civilized world, we mean the constitution of France. In all matters relating to practical liberty, the gold diggers of California have proved themselves wiser than the statesmen of the French republic.

The limitations placed on the power of the legislature to involve the State in debt, are judicious. They are suggested by the bitter experience of the older States, and we are particularly pleased to see them engrafted on the fundamental law of California, where the spirit of adventure is already so eager and so restless, and consequently so liable to run into extravagance, if room for its indulgence were permitted in the province of legislation.

It requires the aid of no subtle philosophy to frame the few rules of government which are necessary to guide and restrain the proceedings of the different branches of a government like ours—but it requires some practical training—it requires a habit of mind formed by living under institutions like ours, without which the most sagacious intellects may fall into great errors. When Locke—wise, enlightened, and liberal in many respects, as he was—undertook to devise a constitution for South Carolina, he produced an absurdity. We venture to say, that there is no emigrant from the United States in California, provided he be able to read and write—and perhaps we should not insist on this qualification—who could not frame a better constitution than that of Locke.

From the New York Daily Express.

The constitution of California is modelled upon that of the government of the United States, and is as free as that of the freest State in the Union. So far from meriting the abuse which it has received from some of the Southern press, it meets the praises of all men who desire to see the blessings of free government extended. We are equally proud and amazed that in so short a time, and in so orderly a manner, a constitution has been adopted, and one wherein due regard has been had to the best interests of the people now and for all time to come. The history of the year past shows that the public mind there has not been altogether absorbed in the acquisition of gold. There have been earnest and practical wishes for the welfare of the people—a desire to begin and consummate a good system of school education—a love for good order and good morals, for institutions of religion and learning—and finally, as we see in the last official act of the people, a unanimous opinion that for the sake of the 'peace, prosperity, and happiness of the people,' all forms of involuntary servitude shall forever be excluded from the shores of the Pacific.

From San Joaquin.

We have been kindly permitted to publish the following extract from a private letter from *San Joaquin City*, addressed to a gentleman of this city. It gives evidence of the existence of a superior *clay beds* for brick making, which in itself will prove an almost inexhaustible element of wealth to the new city. The letter is dated on Thursday last, 21st inst.

"I have taken up three lots in block 199, one for myself and two for my friends, with the intention of settling on this fine township. One of my friends (a Frenchman) intends starting a restaurant and butchering. I have this morning found a splendid bed of clay, and as I am a moulder, intend starting a brick field. The bank of clay I have dug down about four feet, the deeper the better the clay. Hemp is also good, and timber in abundance. If, as you are sending up lumber per steamer, I should like to purchase a few hundred feet. I wrote to a friend of mine from Stockton for a seine, but am afraid he has left San Francisco; should you meet with one and will be kind enough to procure it I will purchase it, and Mr. —— will join me in hauling this river for salmon, &c., which will pay well to send per steamer, as well as for consumption here."

Correspondence Pacific News.

SAN JOSE, Feb. 28, 1850.

"PACIFIC NEWS."—Dear Sir: Please say to your friends, and through your columns, 'to all whom it may concern,' through the length and breadth of California, that strangers and visitors here no longer any complaint that there is any lack of creature comforts existing in San Jose. Our friend, and host of the Mansion House, a hotel just opened here and which would not discredit similar establishments in the States. Lloyd Minturn, Esq., gave notice to his numerous friends, that on Tuesday evening last he would be 'at home,' and accordingly upon our arrival there, we found the 'Mansion' densely filled with those who came to bear witness to the qualities of the house, and its excellent proprietor.

Previous to the dinner, in company with the reporter of the 'Alta,' I took a stroll through the rooms, and found every thing most admirably arranged for the convenience and comfort of guests. There are now some sixty sleeping apartments, to which will be added shortly some forty or fifty more, besides an elegant ladies' parlor, above and below stairs, all neatly and elegantly furnished with excellent furniture.

The bar-room is the 'ne plus ultra' of all hotels in California, and is fitted up in a neat style, and tastefully ornamented, in every respect. We had scarce finished our tour through the rooms when the guests were summoned to the dining-room where we sat down to a magnificent banquet of all the good things that abound in California, served up in 'mine host's' best style. The dining saloon is ample enough to accommodate 100 persons at the centre table, exclusive of a side-table capable of seating some fifty more. Gen. Green, of the Senate, presided, and after the cloth was removed, the 'feast of reason and the flow of soul,' commenced, and wit, song and sentiment, flashed as brilliantly as did the sparkling champagne around the table,

"Till thoughts on thoughts, a countless throng,
Rushed, chasing countless thoughts along."

Amid the abundance of good cheer, happiness seemed to be depicted on the countenances of all. 'Dull care' was driven away, and every thing around us reminded us so forcibly of 'home,' sweet, sweet home, that we toasted our wives, and sweethearts, till all were ready to exclaim, with the poet,

"Give us music and mirth, and laughter,
Sermons and soda, the next day after."

We all grew mighty independent, snapped our fingers at Uncle Sam and his custom houses, and branch mints, and said (it was only a *festive sentiment*, Mr. Editor, and I hope Uncle Sam will not consider it high treason,) 'a fig for them all, we have a *Mint*-urn of our own in California.' Upwards of one hundred guests sat down to the table, among them were representatives of the press, bench, bar and the Legislature, and after spending some two or three hours around the festive board, and passing an unanimous resolution against the removal of the capital, so long as we had such a *capital* place of resort as Minturn's, the company dispersed at an early hour with the best wishes for the prosperity of the Mansion House, and its gentlemanly proprietor.

Yesterday, the day was celebrated in an appropriate manner, by the reading of Washington's Farewell Address, by H. H. Robinson, Esq., and an address by Hon. W. Van Voorhies.

The address is said, by those who listened to it, to have been a very chaste, eloquent, and appropriate production, but it was my misfortune to be absent, owing to a misapprehension of the time when the exercises were to commence in the Assembly chamber. A fine liberty pole was erected the day previous, directly in front of the capitol, and from its top, at an early hour, floated the star-spangled banner of the Union.

'The star-spangled banner, oh! long may it wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.'

The exercises of the 22d inst. were closed by a splendid ball in the evening at the Assembly Hall, which was numerously attended. Yours, etc.

SPECTATOR.

LOCAL MATTERS.

NATIONAL THEATRE—*Washington St.* The performances at this theatre please us much. There is a truthfulness to nature about the acting of French people, and a fidelity to all the etiquette of the stage, which is in the highest degree agreeable. There are lessons of politeness to be learned from them, which might be advantageously applied in the drawing room. Every one must be pleased with the gentility of Mr Piatt, and the good humor and natural manner of Delamarre, the quaint grace of Madame Jullet, and the versatility and pleasant voice of Nazel. Indeed, the accuracy and ease of all, added to that sort of professional amiability which renders French artists so pleasant, must make the National an agreeable place of resort. We understand that an English company will soon appear in a series of popular comedies, under the judicious management of Mr Evrard, from whose ability to cater for an American audience, we look for something excellent in this department.

POLICE.—The nine o'clock visitors to the Alcalde's court, pay very little attention to the adage "water your wine in moderation," as the following cases show:

Philip Aresheing drunk and disorderly, was fined $10.

John Gemitson thought he had a right to laugh and talk at the Olympic, as he paid $2 on purpose to have a little fun, but the Alcalde differed with him in opinion, and fined him $5 for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Mr Bemakin paid $5 for getting drunk. Numbers were allowed to depart, taking their dust with them, in consideration of its being their first appearance.

Frederick Francis, on a charge of petty larceny, was remanded for the grand jury.

Hall alias Gray, a gentleman of color, brought up a second time within a week, owned up to three names as well, as to the fact that it had been a matter of quite common occurrence for him to appear before magistrates when he lived not far from "Philadelfy." His Honor advised him to quit the "critter," plainly telling him that his next appearance there would send him to the chain gang for six months. Mr Wm Hall Gray bowed very politely and said, 'I'll leave the diggings, sir.'

Review of the Market.

Business, since the [illegible] last, has exhibited some activity, but not to the extent generally anticipated at the close of the rainy season. The extreme tightness of the money market has had a tendency to check operations, and the absence of purchasers for the mining districts, but very few as yet having arrived, continue to keep our markets depressed. A gradual improvement, however, is confidently looked for, after the sailing of the steamer, on the 1st proximo.

Ashes—Our market is bare of all descriptions except Saleratus, of which there is a full supply, we record an average decline of full ten cents per pound since our last. The sales are 500 lbs in five pound Shaker boxes at 40 cents afloat, 580 lbs in ten lb Shaker boxes at 39 cents afloat, 1750 lbs. in 65 lb boxes landed at 38 cents, 1150 lbs in 65 lb. boxes afloat at 32 cents, all cash; 3000 lbs in bbls landed at 30 cents, ten days.

Bread—We notice no transactions in Pilot or Navy Bread, there is scarcely any demand except for city retail trade, and prices have fallen to our quotations.

Boots and Shoes—There is rather more enquiry for fine and a consequent falling off in the demand for heavy boots, with a corresponding change in price. We notice sales of 20 cases medium New York city made at $90 per doz., 10 cases Eastern sewed at $90; 16 cases do at $21 per doz; 28 cases common pegged at $60.

Building Materials—The lumber market continues flat, without any immediate prospect of improvement. The large and increasing stock, both afloat and landed, the absence of all demand, and the frequent forced sales which are made by holders, many of whom are totally unaccustomed to the usages of trade, and having no connection with any business establishment on shore, or possessing any facilities for holding, throw their consignments in the hands of the auctioneers with instructions to sell at any price are the principal causes of depression at present. We notice sales of 200 M Eastern assorted, afloat, at $85, 310 M. Eastern assorted, at $78.50 afloat—part cash, balance 30 days; 160 M Albany rough boards, at $67, cash, deliverable in ten days, at the north beach; one lot Georgia pine flooring on terms not transpired. Shingles, both cedar and red wood are dull, we hear of no transactions of moment—holders willingly take our quotations. Bricks, Lime, and Cement, are tending downward, without any immediate prospect of improvement. We hear of a sale of 50 M North river hard bricks, afloat, at $20. 100 bbls. common American cement were offered at $8, but refused.

Coal—There is a fair supply of all descriptions, with a moderate demand; prices have slightly declined since our last.

Cotton Goods—There is very little enquiry for cottons, except brown drills, which have advanced and are firm at our quotations.

Candles—There is a good supply of all descriptions, with a very moderate demand. Prices are steady at our quotations.

Coffee—The stock of Coffee in first hands is extremely light with a very brisk demand for consumption and export. Sales have been made at 16, 17 and 18 cents for Rio and Manilla, holders are now asking 20 cents. Darnt and ground Coffee in tin canisters from the States, readily command 27 cents.

Flour and Meal—The market is unsettled and prices for flour, with a moderate business, have favored buyers, sales of Chili sacks, at $12, half sacks at $6, $6,12½ and $6,25; quarter sacks at $3,25; $3,31 and $3,42; 1000 bbls Oregon at $10. Corn meal is in request and sales of a prime article in half bbls. have been made at $7. The stock of Barley is fair and the demand animated, prices gradually advancing.

Fruits—The stock of dried Fruits on hand is fair and prices for all descriptions are steady at our quotations, except dried apples, which are on the advance.

Fish—There is a fair demand for all descriptions. Prime No 1 mackerel are scarce and much wanted in kitts and half bbls. The supply of No 2 is moderate; and change hands readily at quotations—Oregon salmon has fallen since our last; we hear of a sale of 45 bbls at $17. Good dry cod is wanted and would readily bring remunerating prices.

Provisions—The market is unsettled, and transactions limited. Mess pork is held for an advance. Prime without demand and sales have been made at $16.90. Some small lots of clear pork in half bbls have changed hands at $20. Hams have improved a shade since our last. Butter and cheese have receded and a further decline is confidently anticipated in consequence of large additions being almost daily added to the stock on hand.

Segars—Are in active request for the superior descriptions of Havana, of which there are but few in the market.

Spices—of all kinds are much wanted, the stocks on hand being of a very inferior quality.

Sugars have again become scarce, and prices for all descriptions are rapidly advancing.

Spirits of all kinds are dull, the demand for all descriptions being extremely light, except the finest qualities of Brandies, which are in request at improved prices.

Exchange—The money market continues very tight, and the rates of interest have risen since our last. We have heard of [illegible] per cent and more being paid for the use of money one month, by good parties, who had ample security. The fine weather has given a gaiter more healthy tone to business, but the communication with the mining district is not yet fully re-established, nor yet arriving as freely as must be the case one month hence. The steamers continue to bring, both from Panama and the Mexican ports, large amounts of specie, partly for the purpose of investment in gold dust, and permanent investment in this country. The consequence of this continued influx of coined money, has tended to raise the value of gold dust to $16 and 16 25 per ounce.

Although no distinction is generally made when gold dust is used as the medium of currency in ordinary business transactions, yet we believe, of late especially, the quality is greatly inferior to that received, some few months back. We have tried the experiment, and extracted as much as two ounces of sand and dirt from a package of ten thousand dollars. Quicksilver is also coming into general use in the extraction of the finer sort of gold, and the apparatus used being of a very imperfect nature, a large proportion of the metal remains adhering to the gold, which, when assayed at the mint, cannot fail to leave a loss of from 5 to 10 per cent.

The rates of exchange on New York continue at par, taking gold dust at 16 dollars per oz. for first rate bills at 30 days sight. London, 48½ pence, 30 days. Paris, 5 francs. Parties in need of funds continue to offer their bills at from 5 to 10 per cent discount, according to circumstances.

LOSEE & GALLAER.

Freights.

There have been no transactions in outward freights of sufficient importance to notice. Rates are merely nominal. For inland, the old prices are maintained by the steamers. In sailing vessels, there has been a heavy decline in rates. The ruling prices to Sacramento City and Stockton are $35 per ton, for heavy goods, 75 cents per cubic foot, for measurement, and $[illegible] per M for lumber. Some small lots, however, have been taken to complete cargoes at much lower figures. To Yuba City, $10 per hundred pounds, for heavy goods, and $185 per M, for lumber. A number of small craft have been taken up for Yuba City, among them the schooner Alfred, ninety tons, for the run to Sacramento City, and Yuba. If there is sufficient water, at $3000, exclusive of passengers.

Wholesale Prices.

ASHES—	
Saleratus, per lb	30 a 40c
Pots and Pearls	a
BEESWAX—	
Cuba, white, per lb	50 a
" brown, "	45 a
BREAD—	
Chili, brown, per lb	4 a 4c
American Pilot, "	7 a 8c
" Navy, "	4½ 5c
Crackers, in wood	10 a 12½
" in tin	20 a 22c
BOOTS AND SHOES—	
Boots, men's light peg'd, doz	$60 a 80
" men's heavy peg'd	75 a 85
" men's heavy sewed	90 a 95
" men's light	85 a 90
Brogans, fine, per doz	18 a 20
" heavy, "	20 a 25
BUILDING MATERIALS—	
Am. Lumber, by cargo	60 a 100
Mill dressed flooring, in quantities, from yards	125 a 150
Dressed siding, " do.	100 a 125
Framing Timber, "	150 a 175
Scantling, "	130 a 150
Shingles, per M	8 a 10
Chili Boards and Joists	50 a 60
Siegaporo	a
Ecuador	a
Bricks, afloat, per M	25 a 30
" landed, "	30 a 40
Lime, Eastern, per bbl	9 a 10
" Chili, 150 lb sacks	8 a 10
Cement, common, per bbl	8 a
" " Rosendale, "	8 a 9
COAL—	
Virginia, per ton, afloat	40 a
Cumberland, "	40 a
Pictou, "	27 a 40
Sydney, "	35 a 37
Anthracite, "	35 a 40
COCOA—	
Guayaquil, per lb	14 a 15c
Para, "	10 a 11
St Domingo, "	9 a 10
CHOCOLATE—	
American, sweet per lb	25 a 30c
Spanish, "	32 a 40c
COFFEE—	
Java, per lb	none
Rio, "	16 a 18c
Mecilla, "	16 a 17
Triage, "	none
CANDLES—	
Sperm, per lb	$1 a 1½
Adamantine, "	a
Hull's Patent, "	45 a 50
Tallow, "	20 a 25c
CORDAGE—	
American tarred, per lb	12 a 14c
Manilla Rope, large	15 a 20c
" Small	20 a 25c
DOMESTIC GOODS—	
Sheeting, brown, 4 4 per yd.	10 a 12c
" bleh'd, 4 4 "	12 a 14c
" " 3 4 "	10 a 12c
" sea isl'd "	14 a 16c
Brown Drills, "	14 a 16c
Cotton Osnaburgs, No 1, "	6½ a 16c
Calicoes, blue, "	11 a 13c
" French "	18 a 25c
Carpets, ingrain, & wool, "	81 a 1½
" all cotton, "	a 60c
Bed Ticks, York, "	17 a 18c
Holk's, Brittania, bb stic	a
" tandler, no sale	a
Prints, 4 color, per yard	5 a 8c
White Shirts, per doz	8 a 14
Flannel—	
" per doz	16 a 24
Satinetts, per yard	60 a 75c
Blankets, blue Mackinaw, pair	50 per c. advance.
" red "	
" white "	
" Whitney "	
DRUGS AND MEDICINES—	
Alcohol, per gallon	$1 a 1½
Aloes, Cape, per lb	12 a 14
Alum, "	50 a 1
Arrow Root, "	18 a 20
Arsenic, powd., "	25 a 30c
Balsam Copaiva, per lb	60 a 70c
" Tolu, "	75 a 90c
Brimstone, roll, "	8 a 10c
Camphor, refined, "	75 a 81
Cloves of wood, "	1 a 1½
Soda, sup. carb, "	8 a 10c
Castor Oil, No. 1, doz. qts.	$9 a 12
Cream Tartar per lb	75 a
Cubebs, "	35 a 4c
Epsom Salts, "	12 a 15
Gum Arabic, sorts, per lb	8 1a 2
" " Turkey	85 81
Gum Myrrh, East Ind "	1½ 2
" Turkey, "	1½ 2
" Trag sts "	1½ 2
" " pick'd per lb	75 a 80c
Ipecac, pulverized, per lb	a
Jalap, "	75 a 80c
Nutgalls, "	40 a 60c
Oil of Lemon, "	$3 a 3½
Oil of Peppermint, "	10 a 12
Opium, Turkey, "	12 a 13
Quicksilver, "	2 a 2½
Rhubarb, E India, "	60 a 80
Senna, "	60 a 80c
Quinine, per oz	3 a 3½
PATENT MEDICINES—	
Sarsaparilla, Sands', per doz.	20 a 22
" Bristol's "	20 a 22
" Townsend's "	20 a 22½
Cholagogue, Osgood's, "	30 a 35
Lexipyreta, Dawsion's Fever and ague remedy, doz.	20 a 25
FEATHERS—	
Live Geese, per lb	15a 14
FISH—	
Salmon, Oregon, pickled, bbl	$13 a 18
Mackerel, No 1, bbl	16 a 17
" No. 2, bbl	16 a 17
" half bbls	10 a
FRUITS—	
Raisins, per box, 25 lbs	6½ a 7
" layers, none	a
" Chili, per lb	30 a 35c
Madeira nuts, per lb	30 a 35c
Currants, "	18 a 27c
Almonds, "	15 a 18c
Almonds, soft shell, lb	15 a 18c
Lemons, per hundred, none	a
Oranges, Sand. Is., hundred	$12 a 13
Dried Apples, per lb	35 a 40c
Dried Peaches, clean, lb	40 a 45c
" " stones, lb	a
Dried Cherries, lb	18 a 20c
Brandy Fruits, per doz	$18 a 20
Sardines, whole boxes, doz	20 a 30
" ½ boxes, doz	18 a 20
" ¼ boxes, doz	12 a
Lemon Syrup, doz	8 a 9
HAY—	
Sacramento, per ton	a
Sandwich Islands, ton	a
HONEY—	
in bottles, per doz	11 a 12
LINEN GOODS—	
Raven's Duck, light, piece	12 a 13
Raven's Duck, heavy, "	18 a 20
Diapers, Russia, piece	8 a 20
Brown sheetings, yd	5 a 20
LIQUORS—	
Brandy, J. J. Dapuy, gal	$ 2¼ a
" Otard, gal	2 a
" Seignette, gal	2¼ 2½
" Loubat, gal	2¼ a
" casks, doz	10 a
" Hennessy, gal	2½ 3½
" Leger Freres	2¼ 2½
" Pallesolsia	2¼ 2½
" Rostaau Charruyer	1¼ 2½
Rum, Jamaica, gal	75c a 1½
Rum, N. Eng. gal	40 a 60c
Rum, St. Croix, gal	1½ a 2
Gin, Swan, gal	1½ a 2
Gin, Hercules, Cologne, gal	90 a 95c
Gin, cases, per doz	6 a 7
Gin, New York, gal	50 a 60c
Cider Brandy, Jersey, gal	45 a 50c
Whisky, first proof, gal	45 a 50c
Whisky, Old Rye, gal	1 a 1½
Ale, Bass', doz	5¼ a 6
Ale, Tennant's, dos	6 a
Draught Ale, bbl	20 a
English Ale, "	20 a
Philadelphia Ale, doz	5 a
New York, Miles, "	4 a
Porter, London, "	4½ a 5
" Philadelphia, doz	3 a 4
Cider, Champagne, doz	6½ a 7
MOLASSES—	
Sandwich Island, gal	1 a 1½
Sugarhouse, gal	1a 1½
W I syrup, "	1 a
Stuart's syrup, gal	1¼ a
NAVAL STORES—	
Spirits Turpentine, per gal	$ 1 a 1¼
" in 3 and 5 gal cans	a
Varnish, bright, per gal	2½ a 3
Tar, per bbl	2½ a 3
Pitch, "	6 a
Rosin, "	a
Oakum, per lb	a
Oars and Sweeps, per foot	8 a 20c
PROVISIONS—	
Beef, mess, per bbl	$11 a 12
" prime, no sale	a
Pork, mess, "	27 a 30
" clear, "	40 a 45
" clear, hf bbls	18 a 20
" prime, bbl	16 a 20
Lard, per lb	40 a 42c
" in tins, refined, per lb	42 a 43c
Hams, pickled, per lb	a
" smoked, "	30 a 35c
Bacon, per lb	10 a 12½
Beef, smoked, per lb	a
Butter, Goshen, per lb	30c a 31
" Oregon, "	1 a 1½
Cheese, American, per lb	45 a 50
" English "	50 a 55
Rice, Carolina, per lb	6 a
" Manilla, "	5c a 6
Potatoes, per hundred lbs	$10 a 12½
Preserved meats, 50 per ct. ad	a
Fresh oysters, in cans, qts. doz	$ 22 a 25
Powder, kegs, per lb	20 a 26c
Powder, canisters, "	40 a 50
Pickles, ordinary, per gal	$ 1½ a 1½
" in jars, ½ gal per doz	20 a 24
Paper hangings, 100 per ct ad	a
METALS—	
Bar Iron, American, per lb	8 a 9c
do English, "	7 a 8
Sheet Iron, American, per lb	35 a 38c
do English, "	35 a 38c
do Russia, scarce	35 a
Zinc, sheet, per lb	28 a
Galvanized Iron, "	a
Pig Lead, "	6 a 7c
Bar Lead "	10 a 11c
Banca Tin, "	18 a 20c
Tin Plates, ia, per box	$37 a 40c
Nails, cut, assorted, per lb	12 a 14
" wrought, "	12 a 13c
Shot, drop "	a
Hollow Ware, "	14 a 16
Steel, "	15 a 17c
Spades, per doz	$12 a 14
Shovels, "	5 a 7
" Ames' Long Handles,	15 a 18
OILS AND PAINTS—	
Linseed Oil, per gal	$ 2¼ a
" English, in cans	2½ a 3
White Lead, per lb	12 a 15c
Putty, lb, "	10 a 12c
Sperm Oil, per gal	1 a 1½
Whale Oil, gal	50 a 62c
Salad Oil, qts, per doz	$ 5 a 6
SALT—	
Liverpool, per sack	6 a
American, 25 lb sacks	50 a
SOAP—	
Brown, per lb	7 a 8c
Castile, "	15 a
SUGARS—	
Browns, Brazil, per lb	14 a 18c
White, "	22½ a 25
Crushed, "	35 a 40
Loaf, "	36 a 40
SEGARS—	
Havana, prime, per m	$ 40 a 60
" medium, "	18 a 20
Cheroots, Manilla, "	18 a 25
" China, "	8 a 10
SPICES—	
Cassia, per lb	25 a 30c
Race Ginger, "	9 a 12½
Mace, "	2½ a 3
Nutmegs, "	2½ a 3
Cloves, "	85 a 81
Pepper, "	20 a
TOBACCO—	
Grape brand, per lb	45 a 50
Figs and lights, per lb	18 a 25c
Small lumps, common, per lb	15 a 20c
Fine Cut, pound cans	70 a 80c
" papers, per gross	$ 5 a 51
" " pressed, gro	4 a 41
Virginia Leaf, one hundred lb bales, per lb	11 a 12½
TEAS—	
Green, per lb	30 a 70c
Black, "	25 a 60c
WINES—	
Madeira, per gallon	$ 1½ a 2¼
Sherry, "	1½ a 2½
Port, "	1½ a 3½
Port, imitation, "	1½ a 3
" casks, "	a
Burgundy, Lambat, gallon	a
Muscatel, gallon	90 a 91
Dry Malaga, gal	65 a 75c
Sweetale, "	75 a 80
Claret, per half pipe	$27 a 30
" per doz	8 a 18
Champagne, Clicquot, basket	20 a 23
" Mont's, Cello, "	18 a 20
" Heidsick, "	20 a 22
" Anchor, "	18 a 20
" Rough and Ready "	16 a 18
CORN EXCHANGE—	
Flour, Chili, in 200 lb sacks	$ 12½ a 12½
" in 100 "	6¼ a
" " in 50 "	3¼ a
Flour, Richmond, per bbl	10 a
" Oregon, "	10 a
Corn-meal, kiln dried, bbl	12 a 16
" " ½ bbl, "	6 a 7
Barley, per cwt	5½ a 4½
Oats, per bushel	3 a
Beans, per sack	3 a

PITTS & TILDEN,
Shipping and Commission Merchant,
Ixxxi ef San Francisco

SPECK & BARGHER,
Dry Goods & Commission Merchants,
Sacramento st., between Montgomery and Kearney sts. Ixxxi ef

M. S. Whiting. A. F. Tilden.
M. S. WHITING & CO.,
Shipping and Commission Merchants.
Ship & Merchandise Brokers.
Daily Line of Packets for Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers.
Clay street, few doors from Montgomery.
M. S. Whiting, Commissioner for Maine.
Ixxxi ef

SAMUEL J. GOWER, Auctioneer.
WELLS & GOWER,
Auction and Commission Merchants,
montgomery, st., nearly opposite Burgoyne & co.
Sales of merchandise and Real Estate will be attended to with punctuality.
xxxii A

GARDEN SEEDS. 8 cases, for sale by Cross, Hobson & co. Ixxx e

GOLD DUST INSURED. The subscribers having secured open policies with the Astor Mutual, Mutual Security, Union Mutual and General Mutual Insurance Companies, of New York, are now prepared to forward Treasure or Merchandise through to New York, including the risk of crossing the Isthmus, at the lowest rates.
Turner, Fish & co.
Sansome st, one door south of Jackson st.
Ixxxi j cf

FOX, O'CONNOR & CUMMING, General Merchants, Pacific st., corner of Stockton st, san Francisco, offer for sale, several invoices of English hardware and Sheffield goods, just arrived; carpenter's tools, guns, pistols, percussion caps, gunpowder, shot, &c. An invoice of gold and silver watches, by French, of London; telescopes, clothing, boots and shoes, English blankets, sheeting, fancy and hickory shirts, cigars and cheroots, Irish and Scotch whisky, London preserved meats, &c. English saddles, bridles, holsters, &c.; gold assaying scales and weights. Ixxxi ef

BOOKSTORE.
WILSON & SPALDING, Stationer's Hall, on Clay street, opposite the Police Office, san Francisco, and also at their branch establishment on Front street, Sacramento City, where they offer for sale BOOKS, *wholesale and retail*, on liberal terms—a great variety, making the most splendid collection of *fifty thousand volumes*. Stationery, Blank Books, Journals, Ledgers, Day Books, Record Books, and a general assortment of other articles in their line. Just received a large invoice of splendid Spanish, French and German books, from Paris. An excellent assortment of school books, Sanders' series, and also 2000 new novels.
N. B. Second hand books purchased on liberal terms. Gold dust and California coins bought. Ixxxi A ef

PROCLAMATION. To the qualified Electors of the District of san Francisco. Pursuant to the Governor's Writ, an election will be held in and for said District, on the second day of March, A. D. 1850, for one Member of Assembly, to supply the vacancy occasioned in the Assembly of said State, by the resignation of John H. Watson. The polls will be held in the town of san Francisco, at the Town House, on Stockton street, heretofore known as the American Hotel, and will be opened at 7½ o'clock, A. M. and closed at sunset precisely. As there will be but one Poll, voters are particularly advised to be early in their attendance. Horace Hawes,
Prefect of the District of san Francisco.
Official—Geo W. Panchard, Secretary.
Ixxix n

LUMBER and TIMBER. J. & J. Williams having a Saw Mill in operation in the Red Wood, would respectfully inform the citizens of san Francisco that they have appointed T. H. Green their Agent in this place, where they may leave their orders for all kinds of Lumber or Timber, sawed to any size, or both found and hewed, with an assurance of having them filled without delay. Ixxix n A

CALIFORNIA EXPRESS. Office of Gregory's Express, New York, 69, Pearl st., san Francisco, Hutton & Timmermans, and F. P. Kohlers, Mint; Sacramento city, Moses G. Leonard & co's store; Mormon Island; Connecticut Mining and Trading company's store; Culloma at Sutter's Mill, Messrs Little & co's; Old Dry Diggings, Gooding & co's; Yuba River, Rose & Reynolds's store.
The undersigned arrived from New York in the last trip of the Oregon, having completed the arrangements for a Messenger to leave New York by the Cherokee, on each trip, and to direct through with messages and small parcels; will attend strictly to delivering and collecting for this Express, on the arrival and departure of each steamer at san Francisco.
All payments of this Express received in California. Jas. W. Gregory.
Ixxix n A

NOTICE. California Steam Packet Company. A meeting of the stockholders of this company will be held at the store of William H Davis, corner of Montgomery and California streets, on Monday afternoon, the 25th inst. at 2 o'clock. By order of Thomas O. Larkin, President.

An installment of ten per cent. on each share of the stock of the "California Steam Packet Company" will be required to be paid in to the Treasurer at his office according to the terms of subscription, on or before the first of March, A. D. 1850.
By order of Wm H. Davis, Treasurer.

The subscription books of the above company are open at the offices of the Treasurer in san Francisco and Messrs Brannan & co. in Sacramento City. Ixxviii ef

COLLINS' AUCTION WAREHOUSE.—Having completed his large warehouse on Sansome street, between Jackson and Washington sts, the undersigned is now prepared to sell at auction or private sale, ships, cargoes, real estate, and all kinds of merchandise in general. His wharf and warehouse are accessible by lighters at nearly all tides, admitting, without expense of wharfage or cartage to purchaser or consignor, of the landing or reshipping of goods, an item, in this city, of no inconsiderable amount. Liberal advances on consignments. Goods stored at the usual rates. Gold dust bought. Exchange on Boston, New York and New Orleans.
John A. Collins.
Mr. E. H. Castle, General Agent.
Ixxix n A

MANSION HOUSE, Kearny street, near Pacific street. Mrs. E. Gordon begs leave to inform her friends and the community generally, that she has fitted up a House, with every convenience, for the accommodation of regular boarders and transient visitors. Board can be had by the week or day, with or without rooms. At this establishment no pains will be spared to make it a desirable home.
Ixxviii A

ADAMS & CO.'S EXPRESS. The subscribers will forward by the Oregon, to sail Friday, March 1st, small packages, gold dust, etc., and will give Bills of Exchange on Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, &c.
No packages received for shipment after 10 o'clock, on Thursday morning, Feb. 28.
Our drafts in favor of persons residing in New Bedford and the vicinity, will be paid at the counter of the Merchants' Bank in New Bedford. Adams & co.
Ixxx e montgomery st.

EXCHANGE on New Orleans, in sums to suit purchasers, for sale by Hedrick & Moss, Canteal wharf.
Agents in New Orleans, Messrs Ward & D. Urquhart. Ixviii A

REAL ESTATE for Sale. Town lots suitable for business purposes, in the cameato City, Benicia, Vernon and san Francisco, for sale by N. B. Wyse, Rose, Clay street. Ixxx ef

DELMONICO'S. The proprietors of this fine Hotel and Restaurant beg leave to say to the citizens of san Francisco, that they are now prepared to receive Boarders by the week at twenty-five dollars, offering a Bill of Fare equal to any in this country. [Ixxix j] Wood & co

EXCHANGE on New York and Glasgow, for sale by Cross, Hobson & co.
Ixxx tf

ORANGES. Received by steamer Oregon, from Mazatlan, 50 boxes oranges, in prime order, for sale by Cooke, Baker & co. Ixxx e

Legislative Proceedings.

MONDAY, *February 18th.*

IN SENATE.—Prayer by Rev. Mr. Brierly.

Mr. Douglass in the Chair.

On motion of Mr. Robinson, the Senate proceeded to the election of a President, *pro tempore*, when Hon E. Kirby Chamberlain, receiving the votes of all Senators present, was unanimously elected for the remainder of the session, and until the 1st day of January, 1851.

Mr Crosby, from the Judiciary Committee, to whom had been referred the bill, entitled, An Act dividing the State into Judicial districts, made a report thereon recommending sundry changes to the bill. The report was accepted, and, on motion of Mr De La Guerra, the bill and amendments were made the special order for to-morrow.

Leave of absence was granted Mr Heydenfeldt for the day, and to Mr. Douglass for eight days from Saturday next, and to Mr. Woodworth for one week from Thursday next.

Mr. Green gave notice that he would, on Monday, the 29th of March, ask leave for the remainder of the session.

A message was received from the Assembly, informing the Senate, that the Assembly had concurred in the report of the Committee of Conference in reference to the bill, entitled, An Act concerning the revenue, funds, etc., and also, that they had concurred in the Senate's amendments to the bill, entitled An act authorizing a loan on the faith and credit of the State to pay the expenses of the civil government thereof.

Mr Douglass submitted a resolution, declaring the seat of the Hon. Nelson Taylor, a Senator from San Joaquin, vacated, and requesting the Governor to take the necessary and lawful steps to fill such vacancy.

The question being on the adoption of the resolution, it was by yeas and nays, decided in the affirmative, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bassham, Bidwell, Broderick, Chamberlain, Crosby, Douglass, Green, Hope, Robinson, Vallejo and Woodworth—11.

So the seat of Mr Taylor was unanimously declared vacated.

The Senate bill, entitled, An Act creating officers of health, for the city of San Francisco, and defining their duties, was read the second time, and sundry amendments made thereto, and referred to a select committee.

Mr. Bassham, from the committee on enrolled bills, reported, that the committee had, this day, presented to the Governor, for his signature, the county boundary bill.

The President, pro tem, laid before the Senate a communication from the Ayuntamiento of Monterey, enclosing a series of resolutions, adopted by that body, tendering the free use of the public buildings of that city to the State, for five years, and urging the passage of an act incorporating Monterey, and requesting from the legislature instructions to our representatives in Congress to make that place a port of entry.

The subject matter of the communication was referred to the appropriate standing committees.

Mr. Bassham, from the committee on enrolled bills, reported, as correctly enrolled, the bill, entitled, An Act defining the amount of revenue to be collected to defray the expenses of the government of the State of California, for the year 1850.

On motion of Mr. De La Guerra, the Senate adjourned.

IN ASSEMBLY.—Prayer by Rev. Mr. Douglass.

Messrs. Scott and Randolph were excused from attendance, being indisposed.

Leave of absence was granted Mr. Aram during the week.

Mr. Crittenden, from the Judiciary Committee, reported the following bills, which were severally read twice by their titles and the usual number of copies ordered to be printed, viz:

An Act to regulate proceedings in criminal cases; An Act concerning coroners; An Act to authorize the formation of limited partnerships; An Act to divide the State into Judicial Districts.

The Speaker laid before the House communications from Messrs. J W Van Benschoten and H. W. Heath, tendering their resignations as members of the Assembly, to take effect immediately.

On motion of Mr Tingley, the resignations were accepted, and it was ordered that the Governor be informed of the same.

Mr. Tingley, from the Committee of Conference, in relation to the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Bill concerning the revenue funds, &c., made a report thereon, which was adopted.

On agreeing with the report of the Committee, recommending a concurrence in the Senate's amendment to said bill, which allows one quarter's salary to be paid in advance to the Justices of the Supreme Court and District Judges, Mr Randolph demanded the yeas and nays, which resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bradford, Brown, Cardwell, Cory, Covarrubias, McKinstry, Patterson, Per Lee, Stewart, Stowell, Tefft, Tingley, Walthall, Watson and Speaker—15.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Brackett, Clarke, Creaner, Crittenden, Gray, Hughes, Morehead, Moore, Ogier, Randolph, Stephens and Williams—13.

So the report was adopted.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the Senate's amendments to the Assembly bill Authorizing a loan on the faith and credit of the State, all of which were concurred in.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from Mr. Watson tendering his resignation as a member of the Assembly, to take effect on the 1st of March next.

The resignation of Mr. Watson, on motion of Mr Patterson, was accepted, and the usual resolution adopted notifying the Governor of the same.

Mr. Stowell, from the Committee on Enrolled Bills, reported that the Committee had this day presented to the Governor for his signature, An Act sub-dividing the State into Counties, and to establish Seats of Justice therein.

The bill To regulate proceedings in Courts of Justices of the Peace in civil cases, was read a third time.

The yeas and nays were demanded by Mr. Tingley, on the final passage of the bill, and resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Brackett, Bradford, Brown, Cardwell, Cory, Covarrubias, Creaner, Crittenden, Gray, Morehead, Moore, Ogier, Patterson, Per Lee, Stephens, Stewart, Stowell, Tefft, Tingley, Walthall, Watson, Williams and Speaker—24. Nays—None.

So the bill passed.

The bill Providing for the Liens of Mechanics and others, was, on motion of Mr. Tefft, referred to a select committee with instructions.

On motion of Mr. Tingley, the bill To provide for holding the first county elections, was taken up, and the House refused to concur in the Senate's amendments to the bill, and on Mr Tingley's motion a committee of conference was appointed on said bill.

Mr. Cardwell offered the following Joint Resolution, which was read the first time:

Resolved, (the Senate concurring) That the Judges of the Supreme Court and District Courts, shall, before receiving their first quarter's pay from the amount appropriated, give securities to the Treasurer for the several amounts that they may receive from the same.

On motion of Mr Ogier, a Joint Resolution of the Senate in relation to the appointment to office of members of the Legislature was taken up, read a third time and passed.

The resolution is declaratory of the sense of the Legislature that no member of either body should be appointed to office, while members of the Legislature.

On motion of Mr. Tingley, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Mr Creanor in the Chair, on a Bill to provide for the Incorporation of Cities, and after considering the same, the committee rose to receive a message from the Senate, and again went into committee, amended the bill, and reported the same back to the House, with amendments, and were discharged from the further consideration of the bill.

Mr. Stowell, from the Committee on Enrolled Bills, reported as correctly enrolled, An Act defining the amount of revenue to be collected to defray the expenses of the Government of the State of California, for the year 1850.

Mr. Ogier gave notice that on Thursday next he would introduce a Bill providing against the emigration to this State of free negroes, or free persons of color.

The House then, on motion of Messrs. Morehead and Brackett, passed a resolution fixing the daily meetings of the House at 10 A. M., and providing for the holding of afternoon sessions.

On motion of Mr. Cardwell, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, *February 19th.*

IN SENATE.—Prayer by Rev. Mr. Douglass. A message was received from the Governor informing the Senate that he had signed the bill, entitled An Act subdividing the State into Counties and establishing the seats of justice therein.

Mr. Broderick from the Committee on Commerce and Navigation reported a bill to regulate the duties of Harbor Master of the port of San Francisco, and for other purposes, which was read the first time.

Mr. Bidwell, from the Committee on Corporations, to whom had been referred the petition of William May and others, praying for an act to incorporate a Magnetic Telegraph company, made a report adverse to the prayer of the petitioners, which report was adopted. [The report is not adverse to the objects of the petition, but declares that the petitioners can incorporate themselves under a general law, and that there is a constitutional prohibition of *special* acts of incorporation, except those that are *municipal.* Reporter.]

Mr. Bidwell therefore gave notice, to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a bill providing for the incorporation of Companies, &c.

The Assembly bill entitled An Act to provide for the incorporation of cities, was read the first time and on motion Mr. Broderick, was referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Broderick, pursuant to notice, introduced a bill, entitled An Act to Charter the City of San Francisco, which was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Green submitted a joint resolution for the appointment of a Joint Select Committee to bring in a bill to form new Senatorial and Representative districts, based upon the law subdividing the State into Counties, which resolution was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Bidwell, on leave, introduced a bill amendatory of An Act subdividing the State into Counties &c., which was read the first time and referred to a Select Committee.

The joint resolution from the Assembly in relation to the pay of Chaplains of the Legislature, was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Claims.

The Senate bills, entitled An Act to organize the District Courts of the State of California, and An Act dividing the State into Judicial districts, were read the second time, amended, read a third time and passed; the rules having been suspended for that purpose.

Mr. Hope had leave of absence for eight days, from Saturday next.

Mr. Bassham, from the Committee on Enrolled bills, reported, as correctly enrolled, the bill entitled An Act to establish Pilots and Pilot Regulations for the port of San Francisco.

On motion of Mr. Green the Senate adjourned.

IN ASSEMBLY.—Prayer by Rev. Mr. Busby.

Mr. Stowell, from the select committee to whom had been referred a resolution fixing the pay of officers of the Assembly, made a report, which was adopted. The pay of the officers is as follows: The Clerk of the House, $25 per diem; Assistant Clerk, $20; Engrossing and Enrolling clerks, $22, each; Transcribing Clerk, $22; Clerks of Committees, $22; Sergeant at Arms and messenger, $20, each; extra clerks employed by Chief Clerk, $20, each; Door-keeper and Assistant Door-keeper, $18; Copying Clerks, 50 cents per 100 words copy.

Mr. Walthall, agreeably to previous notice, introduced A Bill prescribing the mode of maintaining and defending possessory actions on lands belonging to the United States, which was read twice, and the usual number of copies were ordered printed.

The House then took up the bill To provide for the Incorporation of Cities.

Mr. Walthall moved to refer the bill to a select committee, with special instructions, which was not agreed to.

The question recurring on the final passage of the bill, it was decided by yeas and nays, as follows, viz:

Yeas—Messrs. Brackett, Bradford, Brown, Cardwell, Cory, Creaner, Gray, Hughes, McKinstry, Morehead, Ogier, Stewart, Tefft, Tingley, Walthall, Williams, Witherby and Speaker—18.

Nays—Messrs. Clarke and Stephens—2. So the bill passed.

Mr. Williams, from the Committee on Mileage, presented the accounts of members of the Assembly, and on motion, the same was referred to the Committee on Claims.

A Joint Resolution in relation to the pay of Judges of the Supreme Court and District Courts, was read a second time.

A Bill to exempt certain property from forced sale. On motion of Mr. Tefft, the same was laid on the table.

A Bill concerning the salaries of officers, on motion of Mr. Tefft, was referred to a select committee, with general instructions.

Bills concerning the office of County Treasurer and Assessors, on motion of Mr. Tingley, were laid on the table until to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Tingley, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Bradford in the Chair, on a Bill concerning Coroners, and after considering the same, the committee reported the bill to the House, without amendment, and were discharged from the further consideration of the bill, and the same was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Crittenden moved to reconsider the vote on the passage of the Bill to regulate proceedings in Courts of Justices of the Peace in civil cases, which was agreed to, and on his motion, the bill was referred to a select committee, with instructions to report forthwith; whereupon the committee reported the same back to the House, and the bill passed.

On motion of Mr Tingley, the House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr Stephens in the Chair, on a Bill to authorise the formation of limited partnerships, and after considering the same, the bill was reported to the House, with amendments, and the committee discharged from the further consideration of the bill, and the same was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On Mr. Tingley's motion, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Mr Hughes in the Chair, on a Bill to provide for the collection of demands against vessels and boats, and after consideration of the same, the bill was reported to the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

On motion of Mr. Bradford, the House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Walthall in the Chair, on the Bills to Incorporate the Cities of Benicia and San Jose, and after some time spent therein the bills were reported to the House, with amendments, and on motion of Mr. Crittenden, said bills were laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Morehead the House adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On motion of Mr Tingley, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Moore in the Chair, on a Bill prescribing the mode of collecting certain specific taxes for county purposes, and after considering the same, the bill was reported to the House and were discharged from the further consideration of the bill, and the same was laid on the table.

Mr. Stowell, from the Committee on Enrolled bills, reported as correctly enrolled bills entitled An Act to establish Pilots and Pilot Regulations for the Port of San Francisco, and An Act concerning the Revenue, Funds, Expenditures, &c.

Mr. Tefft, from the select committee, to whom was referred the Bill concerning the Salaries of Officers, reported the same to the House, with amendments, and on Mr. Clarke's motion, the bill was laid on the table and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Brackett, the House adjourned.

Wednesday, February 20.

IN ASSEMBLY.—Prayer by Rev. Mr. Douglass.

Mr Tingley, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a Bill concerning the offices of County Recorder and Auditor, which was read twice and the usual number of copies ordered printed.

Mr. Stowell, from the Committee on Enrolled Bills, reported a Bill authorizing a Loan on the faith and credit of the State, &c., as correctly enrolled.

Mr. Williams presented the account of J. T McCarty, one of the extra clerks. Referred to Committee on Claims.

The Bill concerning Coroners was read a third time. The yeas and nays being demanded on the final passage of the bill, resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Brown, Bradford, Brackett, Cardwell, Clarke, Cory, Gray, Hughes, Morehead, Ogier, Patterson, Per Lee, Stowell, Tefft, Tingley, Walthall, Watson, Williams, Witherby and Speaker—21.

Nays—Mr. Creaner—1.

The House then took up the special order of the day, being the report of the select committee on the Bill concerning the Salaries of Officers, and on motion of Mr. Williams, the House went into committee of the Whole on said bill.

The question then recurring on the first branch of the report, fixing the salary of the Secretary of State at $4,000 Mr. Clarke moved to strike out $4,000 and insert $8,000. Mr. Brackett demanded the yeas and nays which resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Bradford, Brown, Cardwell, Clarke, Cory, Morehead, Ogier, Stephens, Stewart, Stowell, Watson, Williams, Witherby and Speaker—15

Nays—Messrs. Brackett, Covarrubias, Creaner, Crittenden, Gray, Hughes, Moore, Patterson, Per Lee, Tefft, Tingley and Walthall—12.

So the amendment of $8,000, prevailed.

Mr Clarke moved to strike out $6,000, from the 2d branch of the report fixing the Comptroller's salary at $6,000, and insert $8,000, and on this motion Mr Moore demanded the yeas and nays, which resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bradford, Cardwell, Clarke, Cory, Creaner, Morehead, Ogier, Patterson, Per Lee, Stephens, Stewart, Stowell, Tingley, Walthall, Watson, Williams, Witherby and Speaker—18.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Brackett, Covarrubias, Gray, Hughes, Moore and Tefft—7.

So the motion prevailed.

On the 3d branch of the report, fixing the salary of the State Treasurer at $6,000, Mr Williams moved to strike out $6,000, and insert $8,000, which motion prevailed.

On the 3d item of the report, fixing the salary of the Attorney General at $5,000, Mr Cardwell moved to amend by striking out $5,000, and inserting $6,000. The yeas and nays were demanded on this motion, and resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bradford, Cardwell, Tingley, Walthall, Watson, Witherby and Speaker—8.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Brackett, Brown, Clarke, Cory, Covarrubias, Creaner, Gray, Hughes, Morehead, Moore, Ogier, Patterson, Per Lee, Stephens, Stewart, Stowell and Tefft—18.

So the motion did not prevail.

Mr. Cardwell then moved to strike out $5,000, and insert $7,500. Lost.

Mr Watson moved to strike out $5,000, and insert $7,500. Lost.

Mr Morehead moved to strike out $5,000, and insert $7,000, and the yeas and nays being demanded, resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Bradford, Cardwell, Creaner, Morehead, Ogier, Stewart, Stowell, Tingley, Walthall, Watson, Williams, Witherby and Speaker—14.

Nays—Messrs. Brackett, Brown, Clarke, Cory, Covarrubias, Crittenden, Gray, Hughes, Moore, Patterson, Per Lee, Stephens and Tefft—13.

So the motion prevailed.

Mr. Cardwell moved a reconsideration of the vote fixing the salary of Secretary of State at $8,000, which was agreed to.

Mr. Stowell moved to strike out $8,000, and insert $7,500, which by yeas 11, nays 15, was lost.

Mr Cardwell moved to insert $7,000, and by yeas 17, nays 8, it was agreed to.

In the 5th item of the report fixing the salary of the Surveyor General at $6,000, Mr. Watson moved to strike out that sum and insert P 000. The yeas and nays being demanded were,

Yeas—Messrs. Baldwin, Bradford, Cardwell, Clarke, Morehead, Patterson, Per Lee, Stephens, Stewart, Walthall and Watson—11

Nays—Messrs Brackett, Brown, Cory, Covarrubias, Creaner, Crittenden, Gray, Hughes, Moore, Ogier, Stowell, Tefft, Tingley, Williams and Speaker—17.

So the motion did not prevail.

Mr. Williams moved to insert $7,000, which was agreed to.

The salary of each Justice of the Supreme Court was then fixed at $10,000 per annum, and to each District Attorney $2,000 per annum.

On the 10th item of the report fixing the salary of State Translator at $6,000, Mr. Clarke moved to strike out 6,000, and insert 3,000. The yeas and nays being demanded on said motion, resulted as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bradford, Clarke, Covarrubias, Patterson, Per Lee, Stewart, Stowell, Tefft, Tingley, Walthall, Watson and Williams—12.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Brown, Cardwell, Creaner, Gray, Hughes, Moore, Ogier, Stephens and Speaker—10.

So the motion prevailed.

The salary of the Governor's Private Secretary was then fixed at $4,000.

Mr. Ogier moved to strike out the 9th and 11th sub-divisions of the original bill, which motion prevailed.

On motion of Mr. Walthall the bill was considered as engrossed, the rules suspended and the same was read a third time.

On the final passage of the bill the yeas and nays were as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bradford, Brown, Clarke, Cory, Creaner, Morehead, Ogier, Stephens, Stewart, Tingley, Walthall, Watson, Williams, Witherby and Speaker—14.

Nays—Messrs Brackett, Cardwell, Covarrubias, Crittenden, Hughes and Moore—6.

So the bill passed.

Mr Brown gave notice that at some future day he would introduce the following bills, viz: An Act concerning water crafts found adrift, and lost money and other property; An Act concerning estray animals; and An Act concerning lawful fences, and animals trespassing on premises lawfully enclosed.

The House then adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

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San Francisco, Feb 4, '50. lxxviii It

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KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, Bennett Riley, Brt. Brig General U S Army and Governor of California, by virtue of authority in me vested, do hereby appoint and commission Wm M. Hoffmann a Notary Public in and for the District of San Francisco, Cal
{L.S} Given under my hand and seal, at Monterey, California, this sixteenth day of November, A. D. 1849. [Signed]
B. Riley, Brvt. Brig. U. S. A.,
Official. Governor of California.
(Signed)
H. W Halleck,
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